



Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

**Parents lend a helping hand****CDC Participation Program helps parents save**

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Fort Riley Post

HHC, 1st Bn., 34th Armor triumphs**Basketball championship decided**

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Friday, March 17, 2006

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 49, No. 11

Around Fort Riley

A policy letter issued by Fort Riley Commanding General Dennis E. Hardy details the Post's regulation on cell phone use while driving.

Effective March 15, vehicle operators on Fort Riley and operators of government vehicles on and off post will no longer be able to use cell phones in their vehicles unless the vehicle is parked or the operator is using a hands-free device.

Violators are subject to punishment under Federal law and the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Around the Army**Fort Knox:**

The Turret reported March 9 that members of the 233rd Transportation Company returned from their fourth deployment to Kuwait and Iraq in three years.

The unit arrived home early March 5 from supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The company's mission was to transport supplies and equipment from Kuwait to Iraq to bolster U.S. and coalition forces.

During those four deployments, no Soldiers from the 233rd have been killed or seriously injured, despite the 3.4 million miles they've logged on Iraqi and Kuwaiti roads.

For more on this story and other Fort Knox, Ky., news visit www.thewarcenter.com/turret/ on the Web.

Fort Belvoir:

The Belvoir Eagle reported March 9 that members of the 29th Infantry Division, headquartered at Fort Belvoir, Va., will begin serving as peacekeepers in Kosovo later this year as part of Task Force Falcon.

The task force will be composed of 1,100 to 1,400 active duty and National Guard Soldiers who come from four different Army Reserve Support Commands and four different active duty commands.

For more on this story and other Fort Belvoir, Va., news, visit www.belvoireagle.com on the Web.

Fort Campbell:

The Courier reported March 9 that a language program designed to help Soldiers communicate better while in a foreign country is up and running on the Army's e-learning Web site. Rosetta Stone is immersion-based language software available on the Internet or CD-ROM that uses pictures and audio to simulate the way a person learns their native language.

Fairfield Language Technologies, the developers of Rosetta Stone, announced a \$4.2 million contract with the U.S. Army on Sept. 27, 2005. The agreement makes courses in over 25 languages available via the Internet to both active-duty and Reserve-component Soldiers and Department of Defense civilians.

For more on this story and other Fort Campbell, Ky., news, visit www.fortcampbellcourier.com/

Fort Riley gets new training mission

Special to the post

The Army is innovating its approach to developing Iraqi and Afghan security forces in response to a mission support request from United States Central Command. The mission to train small unit transition teams will be assigned to one specific division: the 1st Infantry Division, soon to be at Fort Riley.

Rapidly enhancing the capabilities of Iraqi Security Forces and the Afghan National Army to enable them to assume the leading role in counterinsurgency and security missions is a vital element in CENTCOM's strategy for success in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The 1st Brigade, 1st Inf. Div., assisted by the 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division until its modular conversion, will temporarily

reorganize for this mission.

Together, the two brigades will organize a cadre of 800 Soldiers who will annually organize, train and deploy approximately 3,500 to 4,000 Soldiers over the course of a year to serve on transition teams.

The size of each deployed team will vary based on its specific mission; however, teams are generally composed of approximately

10-15 personnel.

When the transition teams have completed their pre-deployment preparations, they will deploy and help develop Iraqi and Afghan forces under the command of the coalition headquarters for each country.

The 1st Inf. Div. headquarters, which is preparing to relocate from Germany to Fort Riley, will oversee the training and deploy-

ment of the transition teams. The division will continue to transform to its ultimate end state as a modular, full spectrum formation.

Consolidating this transition team mission at Fort Riley under a single commander enhances the care of Soldiers and their families, better supports Army personnel management, and provides highly

See Overseas, Page 9

Up, over, under

Infantrymen rock course

By Amanda Kim Stairrett

Staff writer

Put 110 infantrymen on two 6-mile road marches and an obstacle course and orchestrate it with rock music and you get competition, adrenaline and "HOOAHs." Make that a lot of competition, adrenaline and "HOOAHs."

Infantry is all about competition, said Lt. Col. Patrick Frank, commander of the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, as he spoke to exhausted, sweaty Soldiers gathered around him March 3 near the battalion's headquarters on Custer Hill.

The road marches and obstacle course competitions ended the Black Lions' Air Assault Training Week that started Feb. 27. The week gave most of the young Soldiers their first taste of air assault training. Many of them will get the chance to attend the U.S. Army Air Assault School at Fort Campbell, Ky. The first group left for Kentucky this week.

See Obstacle, Page 11



Soldiers of the 1st Bn., 28th Infantry, struggle out of the tunnel March 3 at Fort Riley's obstacle course. The Soldiers were participating in an obstacle course competition which ended the battalion's special Air Assault Training Week. The week simulated training at Fort Campbell's Air Assault School in Kentucky. The Soldiers also participated in a six-mile road march competition after the obstacle course.

Post/Stairrett



Black Hawk helicopters lift a "water buffalo" and HMMWV during 1st Bn., 28th Infantry, sling load training March 2. The aircraft and crews belong to the 1st Bn., 108th Aviation, Kansas Army National Guard.

Soldiers take flight

By Amanda Kim Stairrett

Staff writer

A Black Hawk hovered and converged like a dark cloud over the training area. The wind whipped human bodies and the sound beat the air in a growing crescendo. Adrenaline pumped through the Soldiers waiting below.

The helicopter's rotors sent waves of dirt and grass whirling through the air, pelting anything — faces, helmets, vehicles — in their path. The helicopter blades churning just over their shoulders reminded the Soldiers just how close they were to a 20,250-pound hunk of flying metal.

With that immense pressure beating down on them, the Soldiers stood and looked up, just 2 feet beneath the belly of the hovering mass of metal, judging the

See Sling load, Page 12

Area health officials run through 'nasty bug' exercise

By Anna Morelock

Staff writer

Representatives from Fort Riley and Geary, Riley, Clay, Pottawatomie, and Dickinson Counties gathered at Riley's Conference Center March 7 to assess their preparedness for an event such as a pandemic flu outbreak.

Vic Dimattia, Chief of Operations for Irwin Army Community Hospital, said this event represented the crawl stage for the communities involved.

"We're just going to run through the scenario here in a tabletop exercise and evaluate ourselves in communication, how we would track patients," Dimattia said. "The bottom line is how

well we're going to share information and the communication skills between the three or four communities."

"It's crucial for us to make sure that we understand what they're going to do and they understand what we can do," said Riley County Director of Emergency Management Pat Collins about the importance of the collabora-

tion.

One of the biggest goals of the group for the first meeting, Collins said, was to organize a multi-agency coordination center. The MACC would be responsible for organizing public education materials and releasing media information and things like that, he added.

If the groups needed to come

together in a community base because of a pandemic event, some of the basics would already be ironed out, Dimattia said.

"There's always a possibility for anything to happen," he said. "We just want to be ready when it does."

The scenario used at the event

See Pandemic, Page 2

You can find the Fort Riley Post online at www.riley.army.mil





Post/Stairrett
Soldiers maneuver a M119A2 light towed howitzer into position at the 2nd Bn., 32nd FA, motor pool March 10. Three of the battalion's 16 howitzers arrived last week from Hawaii.

New equipment brings training, memories

Howitzers from Hawaii arrive for battalion

By Amanda Kim Stairrett
Staff writer

What started as a new beginning for the 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment March 10, turned out to be a bit of history. The battalion welcomed the arrival of its first big equipment, three of 16 light towed howitzers, from a unit in Hawaii.

For Staff Sgt. Jason Farmer, gunner sergeant for Battery A, the arrival of one of the weapons was a reunion. While stationed in Hawaii, Farmer was assigned one of the M119A2 howitzers and actually signed for the piece.

"It's like a homecoming," he said.

Lt. Col. Gregory Gadson, "Proud Americans" commander, also has a history with the weapons. He was stationed at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, with the 2nd Battalion, 11th Field

Artillery, 25th Infantry Division Artillery, when the howitzers belonged to that battalion.

"It's a small world when you end up seeing some of the same equipment you had," he said.

The battalion's Soldiers are extremely excited for the arrival of the howitzers, said Capt. David Graham, Battery A commander, because they can finally switch from the garrison operations they've been conducting to conducting fire missions.

The battalion will begin maintenance procedure training next week, Farmer said. He has 10 years of experience on the M119A2 howitzers and said he was ready to teach the Soldiers everything he knows.

"We're happy to receive them and get them here to Fort Riley so we can start training and throw some 105mm lead downrange," Graham said.

The M119A2 light towed how-

itzer is different from other howitzers at Fort Riley because it is much more mobile and can deploy to a theater much quicker than its heavier brother, the Paladin, which is sometimes more restricted in where it can go, Graham said.

The weapons will bring the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, a light infantry brigade, an indirect fire capability that supports maneuver units, and represents a significant combat power, Gadson said.

Many of today's artillery pieces are automated, Gadson said, and this weapon is a more traditional piece of light artillery. He likened the M119A2's use and importance to an infantryman's weapon.

"This is our M-16," he said.

Amanda Kim Stairrett can be reached at amanda.kim.stairrett@riley.army.mil or 239-3977.

Pandemic

continued from page 1

focused on an influx of patients with flu symptoms to area hospitals. The scenario was chosen partially due to concerns about the avian flu virus causing the next influenza pandemic.

"We chose this one because it's something that needed to be practiced," said Kansas Homeland Security Regional Coordinator Dennis Colsden, one of the event facilitators. "Not that it's going to

happen tomorrow but it could."

Three pandemics swept around the globe in the last century. Fort Riley is often cited as the starting point for the "Spanish influenza" of 1918. This pandemic is considered one of the deadliest disease events in human history, according to the World Health Organization, and killed an estimated 40 to 50 million people worldwide. In 1957 the "Asian influenza" killed

about 2 million people and the "Hong Kong influenza" of 1968 killed an estimated 1 million people worldwide.

A strain of avian influenza, H5N1, first infected humans in 1997 and since then has caused 96 deaths in Asian countries. The virus, which primarily affects

birds, is uncommon in humans but could mutate and cause a worldwide epidemic.

Without any control measures such as vaccinations or antivirals in place, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment estimates that Kansas could see 2,500 deaths, 5,000 hospitalizations,

500,000 outpatient visits and one million ill from a new strain of influenza.

"We need to have a plan," Colsden said. "We need to test that plan and find out the weak points in that plan before something really happens, otherwise the plan's not very useful."

In June the groups plan to move from the crawl stage to a run by including people acting as patients in the exercise, Dimattia said.

Anna Morelock can be contacted at 239-3032 or anna.morelock@riley.army.mil.

SCREEN MACHINE
2 x 2"
Black Only
2X2 Screen Mach

CANDLEWOOD HEALTH MART PHARMAC
2 x 2"
Black Only
2X2 Candlewood Health Mar TF

CHANGING TIMES BOUTIQUE
2 x 2"
Black Only
2x2 CTB Mar/TF

SPRINT-NEBRASKA PRESS
4 x 10.5"
Black Only
TUNE IN 4333003 SPR

AMERICAN FAMILY INS. OPAT
2 x 10"
Black Only
2x10 Opat Homeowners



Post, Army news briefly

Warrant officer recruiting set

A warrant officer recruiting team from Ft. Knox, Ky., will brief interested Soldiers on qualifications and application procedures March 27 through March 30 at the Digital Training Facility, Building 7285. The briefings will be held at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. On March 30, there will only be one briefing at 9:30 a.m.

BOSS plans bowling party

Fort Riley's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers is planning a St. Patrick's Day Bowling Party at Custer Hill Bowling Center beginning at 8 p.m. March 17.

For more information, call 239-8147.

ROA offers scholarships

The Reserve Officers Association will award up to 60 \$500 Reilly Scholarships this year to undergraduate and graduate students for the 2006-2007 school year.

Undergraduate applicants must be the children, grandchildren, or spouses of ROA members. Graduate applicants must be ROA members.

ROA membership is open to any officer of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, or

NOAA.

To join ROA, call 1-800-809-9448 or go to www.roa.org. For more information on the ROA Reilly scholarship program, contact Chandra Oliphant at 1-800-809-9448, Extension 730.

Toastmasters seeks members

Old Bill's Toastmasters seeks new members from the local community. If you want to overcome the fear of public speaking, think quickly on your feet or build strong leadership skills, Old Bill's Toastmasters may help you.

Old Bill's Toastmasters' next meeting is 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. March 16 at Fire Station No. 2, 2245 Lacey Drive, in Junction City, Kan. Old Bill's Toastmasters meets every first and third Thursday of the month. Meetings are free and open to the general public.

Old Bill's Toastmasters is an affiliate of Toastmasters International.

For information about the meeting or directions, call Jim Hill at 761-1130.

Portal speeds tuition aid

Army Education is undergoing a revolutionary modernization and new automated process called Centralized Tuition Assistance Management. This will give Soldiers virtual access to request tuition assistance online

through a new portal.

The eArmyU portal will be replaced by the GoArmyEd portal. It will be formally launched April 1.

Soldiers will be able to request TA and register for courses online.

Education Services at Fort Riley will be conducting post-wide informational briefings for Soldiers at Barlow Theater at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. March 24 and 27.

For further information and to schedule briefings at unit level, contact an Army Education counselor at 239-6481 or 239-9485.

Army offers \$1,000 reward

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of the person or persons responsible for indecent assault on a Soldier.

The incident occurred between 11 p.m. Feb. 7 and 1 a.m. Feb. 8 when an unknown person entered Building 8018 on Fort Riley and indecently assaulted a Soldier living on the second floor of the building.

Anyone with information concerning this incident should call Special Agent Emey Brantley at the Fort Riley CID office, (785) 239-3931, or the Fort Riley Military Police at (785) 239-6767.

Picerne explains work orders

How will residents submit work orders once Picerne assumes responsibility in July?

By Cassidy Hill

Communications Manager



A resident has a leak in their roof, a broken pipe and no air conditioning – how do they submit a work order when Picerne Military Housing assumes responsibility of all the homes on Fort Riley?

As of July 1, residents will report all maintenance issues, including non-life threatening emergencies, to their Neighborhood Office. Non-life threatening after-hours calls will route to a live operator so that residents will continue to have service for urgent maintenance assistance after normal business hours. The decentralized management of this work order process through the neighborhood center will decrease work order response time. Additionally, residents will become more familiar with their neighborhood technicians, as each neighborhood will have its own maintenance team.

Maintenance technicians will leave a notice when they have been in a home; and they will not enter a home with children under the age of 18 unless an adult is present.

Picerne Military Housing will provide 24-hour emergency maintenance service to residents. Routine maintenance will also be accomplished quickly, efficiently and according to the highest standards.

frozen pipes; pest infestation; no air conditioning when outside temperature is above 78 degrees Fahrenheit; and inoperable modes (when only one is available for use).

Urgent – response and completion time three working days or less

Urgent work is required to correct a condition that could become an emergency. The following situations are examples of some, but not all, urgent conditions: heating and air conditioning systems that break when temperatures are moderate; broken garage doors; tub, sink or exterior faucet drips; and inoperable light fixtures.

Routine – completion time 10 working days or less

Routine work is described as work that does not meet the category of emergency or urgent. Picerne Military Housing will make every effort to respond to and complete the work order request within 10 working days.

For more information about work order procedures or Picerne Military Housing, call (785) 717-2200.





Identification of WWII airman sends important message

By Donna Miles
AFPS

WASHINGTON – The military's persistence in determining the identity of an airman missing in action since World War II sends an important message to families of all missing servicemembers and all men and women serving in uniform today, the commander of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command told American Forces Press Service.

The command announced March 9 that its forensic lab at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, recently identified the so-called "glacier airman," who was discovered frozen in a California glacier in October, as Aviation Cadet Leo Mustonen. His remains will soon be returned to his family for burial, officials said.

The identification, made 64 years after Mustonen's AT-7 navigation plane crashed into Darwin Glacier in the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range, demonstrates the Defense Department's commitment to ensuring the fullest possible accounting of all missing servicemembers, Army Brig. Gen. Michael C. Flowers said by phone from his Hickam Air Force Base headquarters.

It exemplifies the command's

motto, "Until they are home," and helps bring closure to families wondering about their loved ones' fates, he said.

"We brought him home," Flowers said of Mustonen. "And his family can now rest assured that he rests in peace, knowing what his fate was."

For more than six decades, the 22-year-old Brainerd, Minn., airman's fate had been unclear. He was among four airmen reported missing after takeoff from Mather Field in Sacramento, Calif., in November 1942.

Also on board the flight were 2nd Lt. William Gamber of Fayette, Ohio, the pilot; and two other aviation cadets, Ernest Munn of St. Clairsville, Ohio, and John Mortenson of Moscow, Idaho.

An exhaustive month-long search failed to locate the aircraft. Hikers crossing the glacier five years later stumbled upon the wreckage.

U.S. Army soldiers were dispatched to the site, where they retrieved artifacts linked to Gamber's missing aircraft, officials said. They also found three sets of human remains, which were buried as a group with full military honors in Golden Gate National Cemetery, in San Bruno, Calif., in 1945.

The story of the missing airmen reopened 60 years later, in October 2005, when hikers crossing the site found more human remains preserved in ice on the Mendel Glacier. The glacier is next to Darwin Glacier in the Sierra Nevada. Park rangers from Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and a forensic anthropologist from JPAC's Central Identification Laboratory recovered the remains, which were later shipped to the JPAC lab.

The remains arrived wearing a World War II-era Army-issued parachute stenciled with the words, "U.S. Army." JPAC officials said. The unidentified airman also arrived with a comb, various coins and other personal items in his pockets.

Investigators at the command began searching the records of men lost during World War II and found that 25 to 30 military planes crashed on training missions in California during the World War II years. They narrowed their search based on locations of wrecks already found and bodies previously identified. Experts at the JPAC lab used the airman's clothing, teeth and mitochondrial DNA to determine his identity. All four families whose loved ones were involved in the 1942 crash



AFPS/Cayla
Benedick Soria, assistant evidence manager for Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command Central, examines the remains of a World War II-era airman later identified by the command as Aviation Cadet Leo Mustonen.

were notified of the identification. Flowers said the resolve demonstrated in identifying Mustonen's remains sends a strong message to America's men and women in uniform.

"They can rest assured that as they go out to fight our nation's conflicts, that no matter what happens to them, if they were to fall in battle and not be recovered by their comrades, that someone will continue to look for them and not rest until we can bring them home," he said.

JPAC's members work year-round to repatriate and identify the remains of about 88,000 U.S. servicemembers missing from past wars. Those missing include one from the Gulf War, more than 1,800 from the Vietnam War, 120 from the Cold War, more than 8,100 from the Korean War, and more than 78,000 from World War II.

Flowers said the command is committed to a mission that dates back to World War II and is now

embodied in the U.S. military Code of Conduct. While most countries around the world bury their war dead where they fall, the United States promises its servicemembers that it will do everything in its power to bring them home.

Working to fulfill that promise sends joint-service teams from JPAC to potential crash and burial sites around the world.

"We go out worldwide to recover those who are missing or to find those who are missing so that families can have closure and so we can keep our promise to our soldiers and airmen and Marines and sailors that they will come home," Flowers said.

Once teams recover remains and repatriate them to the United States, the command's Central Identification Laboratory uses state-of-the-art scientific techniques to determine their identity. JPAC is currently working to identify more than 1,000 sets of remains in its lab.

Flowers urged families of missing servicemembers to ensure they have provided DNA samples to help the identification process. "We would ask that for those out there who have missing relatives and have not given a family reference DNA sample to contact us or their service casualty representative so we can get that sample," he said.

DNA sampling and other state-of-the-art advances are helping JPAC experts make positive identifications that once weren't possible. Flowers said that process is only expected to improve with time.

There's tremendous gratification in the JPAC mission and the service the command provides, the general said. "If you get just one letter, one phone call or one visit from some of these family members, it speaks volumes," he said. "They are very, very appreciative, and that's what we work for-to come to that closure and bring their loved ones home."

The remains of a World War II-era U.S. airman found in October 2005 in a California glacier are shipped to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, to be identified. Experts at the command later identified the airman as Aviation Cadet Leo Mustonen.
AFPS/Cayla



HOUSE FILL AD

PRAIRIE HAWK CYCLE &
LEATHER,
1 x 1.5"
Black Only
1x1.5 PrairieHawk MarTP

DEL MOTOR
1 x 2"
Black Only
1x2 DEL MOTOR

THE MARTIN AGENCY
4 x 10"
Black Only
A6801SR40B Switch to AM-3/10

ALEX'S AFFORDABLE EYEWEAR
2 x 8"
Black Only
2x8 Alex's Eyewear



Commentary

Friday, March 17, 2006

Fort Riley Post

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Riley Roundtable

This week's question:

Women's History Month is this month. What do you think women have contributed to the United States and to the military?



"Women have contributed over 85 percent of the history of the Army and United States. We just don't get recognition for everything we contribute."

Pauline Byrd
Recreation aide
Home: Junction City, Kan.



"When guys deploy, (women) give support to them."

Martha Luna
Stay-at-home mom
Home: Manhattan, Kan.



"The strength to overcome adversity. It was harder being a woman because people look at you like you shouldn't be a Soldier because you're a woman."

Jaime Merrick
Student and former Soldier with
541st Maintenance Bn.
Home: Milford, Kan.



"It's important to respect women throughout history and today for overcoming obstacles like civil rights and suffrage. Those are all really hard-fought battles."

Pvt. Jason Whittaker
Ammunition specialist
610th BSB, 4th IBCT
Home: Junction City, Kan.



"Women provide great diversity and create a cohesive team within our environment."

Command Sgt. Maj. Eddie Fields
Battalion command sergeant major
610th BSB, 4th IBCT
Home: Fort Riley

Next week's question:

Fort Riley and Junction City have rules about toning down loud stereo music in cars. What's your idea about keeping people from playing their vehicle stereo systems so loudly that the sound waves can be heard and felt at great distances?

Opinions may be e-mailed to the editor at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil or faxed to the editor at 239-2592. Opinions must reach the editor by close of business Tuesdays to appear in the following Friday's paper.

Need to call for help?

Fort Riley domestic violence and sexual assault response line (24 hours) - (785) 307-1373
Fort Riley Victim Advocate Program - (785) 239-9435
Chaplains - (785) 239-4357
Irwin Army Community Hospital emergency room - (785) 239-7777
Military Police (785) 239-MPMP (6767)
Local Police (on and off post) - 911

For confidential, free services, including safe shelter, call The Crisis Center, Inc. (24 hours) - (800) 727-2785
Kansas Statewide Hotline - 1-888-END-ABUSE (363-2287)
National Domestic Violence Hotline - 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

Command viewpoint

Press exaggerations test American will

Editor's note: The following comments were made by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld during a Pentagon news conference March 7 and reported by American Forces Information Service reporter Jim Garamone.



Donald Rumsfeld

The will of the American people is the center of gravity for the war on terror.

Exaggerated reporting is giving the American people a false picture of what is happening in Iraq. Interestingly, all of the exaggerations seem to be on one side. It isn't as though there simply have been a series of random errors on both sides of issues. On the contrary, the steady stream of errors seems to be of a nature to inflame the situation and to give heart to the terrorists and to discourage those who hope for success in Iraq.

One example of such reporting was the exaggerated number of

mosques attacked and the number of Iraqis killed in the violence that followed the bombing of the Golden

Mosque in Samarra Feb. 22.

Fomenting a civil war was the

impetus behind bombing the sacred shrine, and press stories exaggerating the violence that followed played into terrorists' hands. It has been and remains a time of testing for the Iraqi people, but the Iraqis are meeting that test thus far successfully. I would say, and defying the seeming rush to ... proclaim exactly what the terrorists seek, namely a civil war.

A recent poll shows most Americans believe Iraq is already

involved in a civil war. Joint Chiefs Chairman Marine Gen. Peter Pace said the Iraqi people looked "into the abyss" of civil war and stepped back.

The truth in the country is those who want civil war in Iraq are disappointed.

First, the Iraqi security forces have taken the lead in controlling the situation. Coalition forces assisted Iraqi soldiers and police.

Second, the Iraqi government leaders took a number of key steps that have had a calming effect in the situation. They imposed a curfew, and the leaders of most of the major parties have stepped forward to publicly urge restraint on all parties.

Reports after the bombing indicated that sectarian groups had burned and sacked thousands of mosques. This was wrong. Further, contrary to reports, Iraqi security forces behaved well and provided security in Samarra, as

well as in Shiite and Sunni areas of the country.

Overall levels of violence in Iraq have not increased substantially as a result of the Golden Mosque bombing. However, violence continues and continues to affect formation of the Iraqi government.

In the coming months, Iraqis will face difficult obstacles in controlling illegal militias, and we know that. They're working to try to strengthen their ministries, and we're trying to help them.

And their effort to fashion a unity government that will represent all elements of their society is clearly being delayed by the situation in Iraq.

Nonetheless, the leadership being shown by the Iraqi security forces, by the Iraqi government officials in the wake of these attacks against the shrine has to be seen as encouraging, despite the apparent unwillingness of some to accept it.

Legally speaking

Scams target some Fort Riley Soldiers

By Nick Anderson

Legal assistance attorney

Fort Riley, like any military installation, is a target-rich environment for dishonest companies seeking to take unfair advantage of Soldiers. Soldiers have a steady and reliable income stream that is attractive to many companies. In addition, many Soldiers are living away from home for the first time and are unaware of how important it is to be a wise consumer.

Several "repeat offender" categories have been identified by Judge Advocate General attorneys at Fort Riley's Legal Assistance Office. The scams below are especially dangerous and can cost Soldiers thousands of dollars. Beware of the following:

Door-to-door salespeople of any kind. Many Soldiers are unaware that door-to-door soliciting is strictly regulated.

Companies that send salespeople through the barracks or family housing areas are likely violating Riley's Rules. Examples of scams include attractive "college" women who come through the barracks selling magazine subscriptions, salesmen attempting to sell \$2,000 encyclopedia sets and salespeople peddling children's books.

If you suspect a solicitor is on post without authorization, contact the military police immediately. If you were tricked or pres-



Capt. Nick Anderson

door-to-door transactions so long as the cancellation occurs within three days after signing the contract.

Payday loan or car title loan companies. Payday loans are small, short-term loans made by check cashers or similar businesses at extremely high interest rates.

Typically, a borrower writes a personal check for \$100 to \$300, plus a fee, payable to the lender. The lender agrees to hold onto the check until the borrower's next payday, usually one week to one month later. Only then will the check be deposited.

In return, the borrower gets cash immediately. The fees for payday loans are extremely high: up to 300 percent annual percentage rate for a one-month loan. Payday loans become an extremely dangerous trap for Soldiers.

The average payday loan cus-

tomaker makes 11 transactions a year. This statistic shows that once people take out a payday loan, they end up owing much more than they ever originally intended.

Car title loan companies work in much the same way. A Soldier hands over the title to his or her car and the company provides a very high interest loan.

Soldiers who are in a financial pinch should seek out Army Emergency Relief loans or Commanders Loans instead of turning to payday loans or car title loans. To learn more, call 239-9450 or 239-9435 or visit Building 7264.

Companies purporting to sell CLEP test preparation material. Many unscrupulous companies sell products that allegedly can be used to prepare Soldiers to take the College Level Examination Program tests.

Beware. These study materials are woefully inadequate for CLEP test preparation. They also are expensive. Companies charge as much as \$1,649 for these programs and charge 19.5 percent interest. Soldiers and family members should not buy any CLEP study material; they can receive free CLEP test preparation materials at Fort Riley's Education Center. Call 239-6481 or 239-9485 to learn about free study materials from the Education Center.

Leases containing waivers of the SCRA. A federal law named the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act provides a number of protections to all Soldiers and their families.

Under provisions of the SCRA, a Soldier or the dependents of a Soldier may not be evicted from premises used as a residence without a court order. Soldiers also have the right to terminate their rental leases when they receive deployment or permanent change of duty orders.

Some landlords insert small print into their leases whereby a Soldier agrees to waive his or her rights under the SCRA. Such a waiver is very dangerous. A Soldier could end up paying rent for months after he or she leaves Fort Riley.

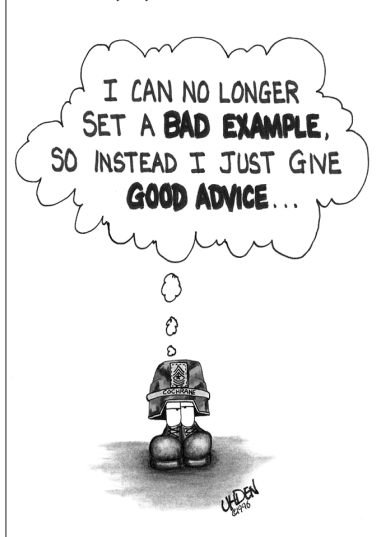
Soldiers and family members should consider the legal consequences of their actions before signing legal documents such as purchase agreements, installment contracts, leases and separation agreements.

The attorneys who work for the Fort Riley Legal Assistance Office seek to prevent legal problems before they arise.

Soldiers and family members are always welcome to come to Patton Hall, Building 200, to meet with a JAG attorney free of charge.

Call 239-3117 for an appointment.

Grunt By Wayne Uhden



FORT RILEY POST

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Memorial march to honor WWII Soldiers



Soldiers from Detachment F, 15th Finance Battalion, march 20 miles March 11 to practice for the Bataan Memorial Death March.

4th IBCT Soldiers to participate

By Amanda Kim Stairrett
Staff writer

More than 23 Soldiers from the Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, plan to participate in the 17th Annual Bataan Memorial Death March on March 26 at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

The event is hosted by the WSMR Morale, Welfare and Recreation, and honors World War II Soldiers who surrendered to Japanese forces on April 9, 1942. The Soldiers were forced to march for days and thousands died, according to the event Web site.

Though the 26.2-mile march is a competition, BSTB Soldiers are attempting to represent the brigade and battalion. Second Lt. Jason Ryncarz of Company C's

1st Platoon said the focus was not to win but to learn the course so he could compete next year.

He said he wants his participation to be something other Soldiers can aspire to emulate.

Capt. Michael Loftus of Headquarters and Headquarters Company said it was great to have Soldiers participate in such a challenging event because it provides an opportunity to show the 4th IBCT's and BSTB's colors to the whole Army.

It also sets a good example for the rest of the young Soldiers in HHC by showing Soldiers who are willing to push themselves physically and mentally, Loftus said. HHC is sending nine Soldiers from private to sergeant first class to the event.

"I give kudos to any Soldier who goes above and beyond the

standard in their pursuit for self and professional development," he said.

Ryncarz and his training partner, Sgt. Jeremy Murphy, have been training four times a week for the event. They do a 4- to 8-mile road march on Mondays and Wednesdays, 3 to 4 miles of interval training on Fridays and a long ruck march on Saturdays.

Participation in the march is voluntary, Ryncarz said.

"We love our job and want to show we care about what we do," Ryncarz said.

The Bataan Death March is a heralded event for the U.S. Army every year and gets a lot of respect from all units, Loftus said.

Amanda Kim Stairrett can be contacted at amanda.kim.stairrett@riley.army.mil or 239-3977.

15th Finance Soldiers train for team portion of death march

By April Blackmon
Community Relations Officer

With 35-pound rucksacks on their backs, five Fort Riley Soldiers set out on a 20-mile journey March 11. By the end of the day, the team will have logged nearly 300 combined ruck-march miles since Feb. 18.

The Soldiers – Capt. Chris Wurst, Spc. Leonardo Avila, Spc. Adrian Eslinger, Spc. James Hill and Spc. Victor Toldoya – are training for the 26.2-mile Bataan Memorial Death March in White

Sands, N.M., March 26. They are all a part of Fort Riley's Detachment F, 15th Finance Battalion.

The race commemorates the Bataan Death March, which took place during World War II in the Philippine islands. The Japanese overran the Americans, and on April 10, 1942, made approximately 76,000 American and Filipino prisoners walk 65 miles through the desert to San Fernando. Thousands died or were killed if they fell behind on the march.

Since the memorial march began in 1989, the event has

grown from a few hundred to several thousand participants.

Each Soldier has his own reason for choosing to participate in the march.

For Toldoya, it's not only a personal challenge, but a chance to commemorate history.

"The Bataan Death March is something big back in the Philippines. And actually, my grandma's (from) around the same area. I guess it's like reaching back in the past, but at the same time I want to test myself," he said.

The race is a test of will, Hill

said.

"It's you deciding that you have to put one foot in front of the other. We've only done 16 (miles) so far but that last six is just you're forcing yourself to put one foot in front of the other. So a 26-miler, that's going to be huge ... intestinal fortitude – it's just forcing yourself to dig down deep and see what you have," he said.

The Soldiers have learned at least one critical lesson during preparations for the march, Eslinger said.

"The main thing is to take care of your feet. That's usually the

first thing to go. Then it just starts working its way up through your legs," he said.

While team members said they are physically prepared for the event, New Mexico's altitude and heat are factors they haven't been able to prepare for in Kansas.

"We've been training (at Fort Riley) and it's usually been cold, in the 30s and 40s. And when we get out there, we'll be at like 5,000 feet and it'll probably be 80 to 90 degrees. It'll be like a complete opposite from what we've been training in," Avila said.

The challenges in participating

in this marathon march – whether it's heat, altitude or foot pain – are trivial compared to the feeling of pride in completing the race, Wurst said.

"The pride each Soldier will feel at the end of the race will dim any pain felt during the race," Wurst said.

"Because as we march, survivors of the original Bataan Death March who are located at different points along the route will serve as a stark reminder about fighting through pain, hunger or lack of sleep."

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Post, Army news briefly

Army offers \$500 reward

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command is offering a \$500 reward for information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of the person or persons responsible for damage to government property, housebreaking and larceny of government property.

The damage and larceny occurred at the Consolidated Troop Medical Center, Building 7672. The center was broken into some time between noon Jan. 12 and 5 a.m. Jan. 17.

Anyone with information concerning this incident should call the Fort Riley CID office at (785) 239-3931 or the military police at (785) 239-6767.

CID recruiting special agents

The U.S. Army's Criminal Investigation Command is seeking qualified applicants to become highly trained criminal investigators.

Special agents investigate all felony crime of Army interest, conduct protective service operations and work closely with other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to solve crime and combat terrorism.

Agents receive initial training

at the U.S. Army Military Police School and additional training in specialized investigative disciplines. Selected agents receive advanced training at the FBI Academy, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and the Canadian Police College, as well as an opportunity to pursue a master's degree in forensic science.

Qualified applicants must be a U.S. citizen, at least 21 years old with at least two years of service completed but not more than eight, possess at least 60 semester hours of college credit and a general technical score of at least 110.

A minimum of six months police experience is preferred, but not required.

To apply or for more information, visit www.cid.army.mil on the Web or stop by a local CID office.

Army offers \$5,000 reward

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command is offering a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the attempted murder of four Fort Riley Soldiers.

Between 4:25 and 4:35 a.m. Jan. 22, an unknown person or

persons driving an unknown vehicle fired multiple 9mm rounds at a vehicle occupied by four Soldiers at the intersection of Trooper Drive and Thomas Avenue on Fort Riley. The Soldiers were returning to their barracks from the Rally Point club on post.

Anyone with information concerning this incident should call the Fort Riley CID office at (785) 239-3931 or the military police at (785) 239-6767.

Pharmacy drops medicines

Effective this month, Irwin Army Community Hospital Pharmacy Service has deleted Norvasc® (Amlodipine), Flo-max® (Tamsulosin), Accupril® (Quinapril) and Altace® (Ramipril) from its available medications. The change has been directed by Department of Defense.

These DoD-designated non-formulary medications require the provider to complete a medical necessity form in order for the patient to acquire them from civilian pharmacies at a cost of \$9 for a 30-day supply of either the brand name drug or its generic equivalent. Providers can obtain the medical necessity form online at www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/medical-nonformulary/cfm.

Non-formulary brand name and generic medications will cost \$22 for a 30-day prescription filled at civilian pharmacies or through the Tricare Mail Order Program without a provider's medical necessity form.

Medical necessity generally means the patient has tried other medications that do not work and the one prescribed is the only that works.

The medical necessity form is one filled out by the patient's provider. This enables the patient to receive the say prescription as above, for only \$9.00. (This is because patient has more than likely tried other meds that do not work and this particular med is the only one that does - therefore, medical necessity).

For more information, call the Irwin Army Community Hospital Pharmacy at (785) 239-7411.

Tornado sirens tested daily

The Fort Riley Operations Center is testing the tornado early warning siren system everyday following the noon mess call bugle. Exceptions will be weekends and holidays when the FROC will run the silent test that is currently used.

Military rates 47 percent

Harris Poll shows military most admired U.S. institution

By Jim Garamone

AFPS

WASHINGTON – The military continues to be the most admired institution in America, according to the latest Harris Poll.

A total of 47 percent of Americans said they have a "great deal" of confidence in the military. Some 38 percent of Americans said they had "only some" confidence and 14 percent said they had "hardly any" confidence in the military.

The military was followed in the poll by small business, a new category in 2005, with 45 percent of Americans saying they had a great deal of confidence; colleges and universities, 38 percent; the Supreme Court, 33 percent; and medicine, 31 percent.

At the bottom of the survey, released March 2, were law firms at 10 percent, Congress at 10 percent, organized labor at 12 percent, major companies at 13 percent and the press at 14 percent.

Anchoring the middle was

organized religion at 30 percent, the White House at 25 percent, public schools at 22 percent, the courts and justice system at 21 percent, and television news at 19 percent.

The military has done well in the poll since the mid-1980s. The first poll, conducted in 1966, had the military at a 61 percent approval rating. The next poll, conducted in 1971 showed the corrosive effect of the Vietnam War on America. Only 27 percent of Americans had confidence in the military then.

The public confidence in the military climbed after the 1970s and by 1989 the military was the most-trusted organization in the United States.

Harris Interactive, based in Rochester, N.Y., conducts the poll without sponsors. "We do this on our own," public relations coordinator Kelly Gullo said.

Gullo said Harris Interactive pollsters canvassed 1,016 U.S. adults via telephone. She said the sampling error for the survey is plus or minus 3 percent.



COMMANDER FOURTH REGION (ROTC)
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Overseas

continued from page 1

trained, fully manned, fully equipped and cohesive teams.

This consolidation also allows the Army to sustain its strategic momentum in building modular formations and improves the Army's global posture in concert with Base Realignment and Closure activities.

The Army expects this mission to last several years, during which Fort Riley will experience periodic surges in the population of Soldiers, civilians and Army families as team members arrive, train and then deploy from the installation.

HOUSE FILLAD

By Gerry J. Gilmore
AFPS

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department is preparing to implement the first phase of its new pay-for-performance civilian personnel system in late April, a senior official said March 3.

At that time, about 11,000 DoD civilians will be enrolled into the National Security Personnel System, Patricia S. Bradshaw, deputy undersecretary of defense for civilian personnel policy said during an American Forces Press Service interview.

"It was always a passion for me that some day we would be able to do this," said Bradshaw, who'd been familiar with pilot civilian pay-for-performance programs conducted at two Navy installations in California a decade ago.

A senior civilian personnel expert with 27 years of DoD and Navy service, Bradshaw worked in the corporate world for six years after she retired from the government in 1999. She recently came back to DoD to help its work force become more capable and relevant in the post-Sept. 11 era.

DoD and the Office of Personnel Management have partnered to create the NSPS, a personnel management process that eventually will apply to more than 650,000 DoD civilian employees.

The Navy's civilian management pilot programs conducted at facilities at China Lake and San Diego proved to be forerunners of today's NSPS, Bradshaw said. Those early programs "simplified the job descriptions so they could move people around more easily," Bradshaw recalled. "But, at the end of the day it was the pay-for-performance piece and the desired end-state of retaining your top performers" that stood out.

Under NSPS, "if you want to be a star performer, we're going to differentiate and we're going to pay you that way," Bradshaw said. That "is the underpinning theme," she said.

Bradshaw said the world has changed greatly since terrorists attacked the United States on Sept. 11, 2001. Those attacks influenced Congress to give DoD the authority it needed to change the way it pays and manages its civilian work force, she said.

"The support we got for that on the Hill was as a result of the lessons learned from 9-11," Brad-

shaw explained. The war against terrorism also prompted DoD to adopt "a system that allows us to move individuals quickly and have a more agile way of assigning people, and more specifically, figuring out what competencies they have," she said.

One of the personnel management tenets contained within the 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review is developing a competency-based personnel management infrastructure on both the military and civilian sides of the house, she said.

Bradshaw said DoD's old civilian personnel system hamstrung supervisors because its narrow job descriptions and associated paperwork worked against quickly assigning people to more urgent duties. "We really don't know what other capabilities you have or competencies you bring to the table," Bradshaw explained. "Maybe you were a contract specialist at one time."

The NSPS brings the ability to catalog and identify employees' skills so managers can access them quickly, Bradshaw said. This "allows us to make these movements and assignments in a much more agile way," she said.

The ability to quickly move civilians where they are needed most—including overseas—is a key desired benefit of adopting NSPS, Bradshaw said. "Right now we are able to do this through volunteers," she said. However, the war against terrorism brings everyone "a lot closer to the front lines" than during the Cold War.

"It causes us to think again how we deploy civilians," Bradshaw said. "We are part of the total force." DoD must be more deliberate on developing its senior civilians, she said, so they acquire a joint view of the military and a better understanding of how it accomplishes its missions.

That kind of experience "can't be gained by staying in your own organization — in your own 'stovepipe' — year after year and then expecting to then leapfrog to a very senior position in the Department of Defense," Bradshaw said.

Army Secretary Francis J. Harvey recently announced a new policy that calls for senior civilians to be moved around to gain more experience rather than staying at the same organization, Bradshaw said. "It just hasn't happened in a very deliberate way in

every service," she said.

In 2003, DoD began work to establish a new civilian personnel compensation and management process that rewards employees according to performance. Fifty-year-old civil service rules mostly tied employees' raises to an individual's length of service.

In February 2005, the American Federation of Government Employees and a dozen other labor unions filed a lawsuit against the Defense Department over the establishment of NSPS. U.S. District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan ruled Feb. 27 that proposed NSPS provisions would not protect civilian employees' ability to bargain collectively. DoD and OPM officials continue to work with the Department of Justice to determine the next steps relative to the ruling.

Meanwhile, the department is moving forward with implementing the performance management, compensation and classification, staffing, and work force shaping provisions of the new system, which is slated to occur in late April, according to a statement on the NSPS Web site.

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Group to examine reserve use

By Jim Garamone
AFPS

WASHINGTON — A congressionally appointed commission will commence the most comprehensive review of the National Guard and Reserves in history.

Retired Marine Maj. Gen. Arnold Punaro chairs the 13-member commission.

The reserve components have played an increasingly important part in the global war on terror, Punaro said during an interview. Congress formed the commission on the National Guard and reserves as part of the 2005 National Defense Authorization Act.

Punaro said Congress felt an independent group needed "to take a more fundamental look at how the reserves are organized, trained and equipped." In addition, the commission will look at future threats and requirements to combat those dangers.

Nothing concerning the reserves is out of the scope of the

commission, Punaro said. The group will look at laws governing the reserve components, and key issues include roles and missions of reserve forces, capabilities, reserve component organization and structure, readiness, compensation, and benefits and funding.

The commission will also examine the relationship between the active and reserve components.

The commission stood up March 1 and must draft an interim report in 90 days. The commission will deliver a final report to Congress and the defense secretary in one year.

Use of the National Guard is a particular concern today, Punaro said.

National Guardsmen are increasingly serving overseas but are also the troops that governors rely upon to handle natural or man-made disasters in the United States. National Guardsmen from around the country, for example, converged on the Gulf Coast to help in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. "The governors and state

and local officials are a critical part of this review," Punaro said.

Reserve-component troops are "forward deployed" in communities all over the United States, Punaro said, meaning they are already in the areas where they could be needed. In many cases, these servicemembers are the police, firefighters and emergency medical technicians in their civilian lives, he noted.

Punaro said he already has met with governors who are worried about the availability of National Guardsmen in the event of a natural or man-made disaster.

He said the commission's biggest challenge will be to "think smarter, not richer."

The answer to every question on the reserves cannot be tied to funding, he said. "We can't have a National Military Strategy that's simply an adding machine," he said. "We can't just solve every problem in the Guard and reserves by just throwing more money at them."

He also said the commission will be mindful that reserve-com-

ponent personnel are not full-time.

"They are organized trained and equipped to respond to emergencies, to be able to serve alongside their active duty counterparts," he said. "If they wanted to be on active duty 365 days out of the year for 10 years in a row, they would be serving in the active-duty military, they wouldn't be in the reserves."

He said the commission will work to ensure reserve-component troops are informed about what the commission is doing on their behalf.

The commission is, in part, a response to the changing nature of reserve-component duty. DoD officials today consider the reserves an "operational reserve," as opposed to the Cold War's "strategic reserve," when the reserves would be called up only

in the direst circumstances, Punaro said.

Today, the reserves are an integral part of the operational force. Already more than 500,000 reserve-component personnel have served in the global war on terror.

Studying this change and the ramifications for reservists and their families is at the heart of the commission's mission, Punaro said.

He vowed that the commission's recommendations will not lie gathering dust on some bookshelf. "We will follow up," he said. "We're going to prepare our recommendations for implementation the day we report them. We're going to prepare the legislation, and all somebody has to do is take it down to the Senate floor and introduce it."

Post, Army news briefly

Oil, antifreeze must go to center

Post residents are reminded to place used motor oil and antifreeze in proper containers and take them to the Automotive Skills Center, 7753 Apenines Dr. on Custer Hill, or the Household Hazardous Waste Facility at the Environmental Waste Management Center in Building 1945, Camp Funston.

It is illegal to throw used oil and antifreeze into refuse dumpsters or pour them down storm drains.

For more information, call the Automotive Skills Center at 239-9764 or 239-4028, the waste facility at 239-6797 or Jill Dalton at 239-2385.

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Obstacle

continued from page 1

Frank said more of his Soldiers would be sent to Fort Campbell for the two-week training from now until May. He urged them all to compete for those training slots every day during physical training

at Fort Riley.

Leaders in 1st Bn., 28th Inf., wanted to prepare their Soldiers for the intense competition at Air Assault School by replicating some of the challenges it presents,

such as the road march and obstacle course.

Soldiers spent the week immersed in physical training, planning, loading and pick-up zone operations, and sling loading

operations. Most of training was unlike any most of the Black Lions had experienced.

"The whole week is key to us because this is the foundation; and with this new battalion that we have, (the) new brigade, we set up a foundation now and from here we can just get better," said Sgt. 1st Class David Dean, Headquarters and Headquarters Company effects coordinator.

Staff Sgt. Jamal Gutierrez led his 3rd Squad of the 2nd Platoon, Company A, to winning the Air Assault Road March. After the

squad reached the finish line, they sat propped against their rucksacks and feasted on MREs (Meals Ready to Eat) while the rest of the battalion squads trickled in.

Frank said the squad distanced itself from the pack at the beginning and stayed ahead. He praised their teamwork and said they "showed a lot of heart."

Weapons Squad of the 1st Platoon, Co. A, led by Staff Sgt. Jason Butkus, dominated the obstacle course competition.

While the road march and

obstacle course were meant to give the Black Lions motivation, Frank reminded them what they were training for.

"Continue to push the envelope as infantrymen because within 12 to 18 months, who knows the timeline, this battalion will be in combat," he said. "That's serious business, gentlemen."

Amanda Kim Stairrett can be contacted at amanda.kim.stairrett@riley.army.mil or 239-3977



Post/Stairrett

Soldiers of the 1st Bn., 28th Infantry, work through the rope climb and pipe walk March 3 at Fort Riley's obstacle course. The Soldiers were participating in an obstacle course competition which ended the battalion's special Air Assault Training Week. The week simulated training at Fort Campbell's Air Assault School in Kentucky. The Soldiers also participated in a six-mile road march competition after the obstacle course. Weapons squad, 1st Platoon, Co. A, won the obstacle course competition and 3rd Squad, 2nd Platoon, Co. A, won the road march.



Post/Stairrett
Soldiers of the 1st Bn., 28th Infantry, leap over the low wall March 3 at Fort Riley's obstacle course.



Post/Stairrett
Soldiers of the 1st Bn., 28th Infantry, maneuver across the two-rope bridge crossing March 3 at Fort Riley's obstacle course.

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Soldiers of the 1st Bn., 28th Infantry, wait on top of a “water buffalo” waiting to hook it to an approaching Black Hawk helicopter March 2. The aircraft and crews belong to the 1st Bn., 108th Aviation, Kansas Army National Guard. The training was part of the battalion’s Air Assault training week.
PAO/Blackmon



Post/Stairrett

Soldiers of the 1st Bn., 28th Infantry, practice attaching sling load straps to a damaged vehicle. The training simulated a situation in which Soldiers had to load a damaged vehicle at a pick up zone. The damaged vehicle’s typical hook up points were destroyed and the Soldiers had to determine how to best evacuate the vehicle.

Sling load continued from page 1

right time to attach the cable connected to a “Humvee” on the ground and sending it into the air. In a similar situation, Soldiers sprinted from their staging point on the prairie toward the landing helicopter, jumped in with their buddies and secured themselves as the Black Hawk leaped back into the air. Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Division, experienced the adrenaline rush and unique airmobile operations during a special week of air assault training at Fort Riley Feb. 27 to March 3. The week was part of an effort to orient infantrymen with air assault and sling load operations. Being light infantry, these Soldiers will have to carry out these type of operations, said Lt. Col. Patrick Frank, 1st Bn., 28th Inf., commander who arranged for the special orientation training for his Soldiers. The thunder of helicopters in the air added to the Soldiers’ excitement. “Good times, huh?” “HOOAH!” “Them birds coming over your head are a rush, huh?” “HOOAH!” The Black Lions’ Air Assault Training Week was a condensed version of a two-week course taught at Fort Campbell, Ky. Sgt. 1st Class David Dean, the Headquarters and Headquarters Company effects coordinator who helped lead the events, said the training was vital because 1st Bn., 28th Inf., is an air assault battalion. Dean said battalion Soldiers must get used to the physical and mental pressure of conducting sling load operations and loading into and leaving a hovering aircraft. “It can be very intimidating, but the more you do it, the more Soldiers are confident and when it actually comes down to it, they know, ‘OK, this is what I’ve got to do,’ and they make it happen,” he said. Many Soldiers at the battalion’s pick-up zone sites March 3 could only smile wide and say “awesome” when describing their experiences. The Black Lions, who have conducted limited training because the battalion is not fully equipped, relished the chance to work with two Black Hawks from the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, Kansas Army National Guard. “We do a lot of walking and running and ruck marching, and we don’t ever really get to mess with helicopters that much,” Pvt. Cale Hunchusky said as the aircraft buzzed overhead. “So it’s exciting to be able to be this close to them.” Hunchusky served as a guidon, directing the pilot where to go and when to take off. He also was one of the Soldiers who stood on a piece of equipment and hooked the lifting cable to the bottom of

the helicopter. “The wind coming down from the helicopter is real challenging,” Hunchusky said. “You’ve got to have a lot of strength to hook it up to the helicopter, and it’s real exciting.” Sling loading is one of the most complex, most technical aspects the Soldiers must pass at the U.S. Army Air Assault School at Fort Campbell, Frank said. Sling loading is one method light infantry Soldiers use to move operations around a battlefield, he added. Nothing beats the rush of running and jumping onto a Black Hawk and taking off, Pic. Kristopher Rankin said. “It’s some pretty cool stuff. It’s a lot of fun. Air assault training is some of the best training I’ve done since I’ve been in the Army,” he said. Dean had to do some wrangling to get the equipment needed for the battalion’s Air Assault Training Week. He searched for aviation units online and got equipment from as far away as Tulsa, Okla. The Black Hawk pilots, Kansas National Guard Soldiers, said they also benefited from the training. Second Lt. Joshua Urban said it provided concurrent training among the “air guys” and “ground guys.” The aviation unit was recently alerted for mobilization. If it weren’t for that, Urban said he would like to continue teaming with 4th IBCT infantrymen for training. This is just really good training, said Maj. Erik Overby, battalion executive officer, as he surveyed the Soldiers on the field. “This is what these young men joined the Army to do,” he said. Amanda Kim Stairrett can be contacted at amanda.kim.stairrett@riley.army.mil or 239-3977.

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Fort Riley Community Life

Friday, March 17, 2006

America's Warfighting Center

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Community news briefly

AAAA hosts family day

The Army Aviation Association of America is hosting a family day April 3. Soldiers and family members are invited to sign up to fly the UH-60 Simulair at Building 724 on Marshall Army Airfield from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. A family day party will be held 2 p.m. To schedule a simulator time, call Chief Warrant Officer Wadeson at (785)318-0993.

Potty training your child

A class on potty training will be offered from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. March 27 at Army Community Service. Toilet training is a major milestone for any young child and has also been known to be a very frustrating time for parents. To learn simple, practical techniques for effectively toilet training your child, or if you need support, plan to attend this session. Free childcare is on a first come, first served basis with a limit of 20 children. No registration fee. A snack will be provided. To register, email site2665@riley.army.mil or call 239-9435.

St Patrick's Day pool party set

Snacks, games, prizes, swimming and fun will be available during the St. Patrick's Day Pool Party at Eyster Pool from 2 to 5 p.m. March 18. Entry is free.

Robin Hood Auditions set

Group auditions for the Fort Riley Middle School Teen Center's presentation of Robin Hood will begin at 9 a.m. July 10.

Sixty parts for first through twelfth graders and four assistant director positions are open. The audition location will be announced later due to renovation of current facility. Registration begins May 1. For more information call 239-4847.

Spring break events planned

School Age Services has great Spring Break events planned.

March 20-24 - Crazy Hat Day, arts & crafts, a visit to the water park in Lawrence and a visit to the Wizard of Oz Museum in Wamego. Contact School Age Services for specific times and dates at 239-9220.

Spring workshop planned

Child and Youth Services will offer an art workshop in Building 6620 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 20 through 24. Children ages 6 and older are welcome. Registration begins Feb. 15 in Building 6620. Cost for the weeklong workshop and art supplies is \$35. Participants must bring a sack lunch. For more information, call 239-4847.

Stay In Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley cable Channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Event to celebrate women's history

By Nicole Powell
Equal Opportunity Advisor

Women's History Month is celebrated annually in March. This year's observance will be held March 22 from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at Riley's Conference Center. Guest speaker Brig. Gen. Belinda Pinckney, deputy director of Defense Finance and Accounting Service will speak on the

theme "Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams." Women's History Month provides our country the opportunity to honor the countless contributions that American women have made throughout history. These contributions have enriched our culture, strengthened our Nation and furthered the Founders' vision for a free and just Republic that provides opportunity and safety at

home and is an influence for peace around the world. Since its beginnings, noteworthy women have played defining roles in shaping our Nation. Sacagawea was a Native American woman who befriended explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark 150 years ago as they crossed the Northwest. She helped Lewis and Clark complete the first successful overland

transcontinental journey. Lucretia Mott courageously wrote and spoke against slavery and the lack of equal rights for women. She helped America recognize the inherent wrong in the institutional subjugation of others and the need to strive for equality, freedom and justice for all. Elizabeth Blackwell was the first woman in America awarded a medical degree. She dedicated her

pioneering efforts as a physician to helping others. Helen Keller overcame debilitating physical disabilities, showing us the power of a determined human spirit.

Clara Barton developed a vision for helping others through her service to the wounded during the Civil War. She realized that vision by founding the American

See Women, Page 15

Play, save

Program provides child care savings

By Vicki Ohmacht
Fort Riley CDC

Families enrolled in Child and Youth Services are saving money on child care fees with the CYS Parent Participation Program.

Customers can earn a 10 percent discount each month by participating in activities ranging from making play dough to attending meetings. For the average family paying \$396 a month for full-time care, this translates to a \$39 savings.

At the Child Development Center on Warren Road, 38 parents have already received discounts since the program started in September.

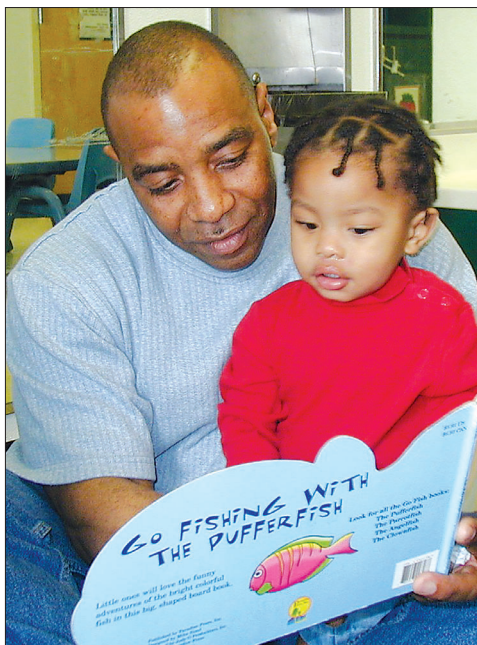
"The program has been successful beyond our expectations. In addition to saving our families money, it has encouraged them to bring their creativity and talents to our modules and given the parents a better idea of what takes place in our program," CDC Director Carole Hoffman said.

Getting the CDC program started was a special project for Lynette Jenkins, assistant director.

"We knew parents wanted to be more involved in the program, but they didn't know how," Jenkins said. "The program gives them some ideas and guidelines and an added bonus of a discount on fees."

One CDC parent agreed. "My first initial incentive was to get a discount, but I also like to be involved in what is going on in my son's module," Terrell Lykes said.

See Parents, Page 15



Johnny Stewart reads a book to his son Brekanye at the Child Development Center. Parents can now receive participation points for being involved with certain activities such as attending meetings and making play dough.

CDC/Ohmacht

AMEDD Awareness

Cancer screening important for men, women over 50

By Dr. Matthew Wakefield
IACH

Colon and rectal cancer is the third most common cancer found in men and women in the United States.

The American Cancer Society estimates there will be about 146,810 new cases of colorectal cancer in 2006 in the United States. This will result in about 55,000 deaths from the disease.

Colon and rectal cancer have many features in common and are often referred to as colorectal cancer.

We do not know the exact cause of colorectal cancer but there are certain known risk factors.

Risk factors are things that increase a person's chance of having a certain disease.



FOR YOUR
HEALTH

Risk factors for colorectal cancer include a family history, especially close relatives like parents or siblings, age, a diet high in fat, history of polyps, history of inflammatory bowel disease, lack of exercise, obesity, smoking and alcohol.

Early stages of colorectal cancer and polyps often have no symptoms and are best discovered through screening tests.

Everyone over the age of 50 should receive screening for colorectal cancer. Although there are other options, this is best done via

a colonoscopy. This outpatient procedure is completed under moderate sedation.

A physician will be able to further guide those with risk factors for colon cancer as to when they should begin undergoing screening.

The death rate from this disease has been decreasing the past 10 years, in part because of screening in which polyps can be removed before they turn into cancer. In addition, if colorectal cancer is found earlier, it can be treated and possibly cured.

Everyone over age 50 or at risk for colon cancer should be evaluated by their physician annually for a complete medical examination.

Their physician can then help them determine the best screening method and assist with scheduling the screening.

Operation plans Easter baskets

Special to the Post

Operation Holidays, a non-profit organization that sends holiday packages to service-members overseas, has begun collecting Easter items.

For Valentine's Day the group collected, boxed, addressed and shipped almost 900 packages to Soldiers. The group will be collecting Easter items until March 27 and we will ship the packages April 1.

Kathryn Alvarez, president and founder of the group, said she suggests avoiding the Fort Riley Post Office that day.

Alvarez said she and a couple other group members usually form an assembly line to help the postal cashier by stamping packages and affix-

ing customs forms to the boxes but the process still takes two to three hours.

Alvarez said she's gotten quite a few comments about taking up so much time on a Saturday.

"We really have no other way to ship out any easier," Alvarez said. "We do apologize for the inconvenience of our shipping out on Saturdays."

After Easter, the group will mail out packages for Mother's Day and Father's Day. After Father's Day the group usually only has enough money to send cards to each Soldier.

For more information on Operation Holidays, contact Kathryn Alvarez at (785) 375-2086, kathy@operationholidays.com, or visit www.operationholidays.com.





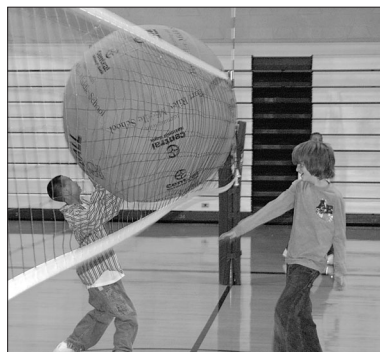
Post/Stairrett

Students earn party

Three hundred twelve students qualified for an incentives celebration March 10 at Fort Riley Middle School. The party was based on their good academic performance and behavior, said Terry Heina, assistant to the principal. The school throws an incentives party every six weeks to reward the students, and will travel to Worlds of Fun at the end of May.

Above: Jocelyn Aguilar and Elizabeth Yoast play Clue during the Fort Riley Middle School incentives celebration March 10.

Right: Fort Riley Middle School students play in the gym during an incentives celebration March 10.



Post/Stairrett

HOUSE FILL AD

JON MURDOCK AUTO MALL
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Black Only
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Community news briefly

Awareness activities set

In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month and Month of the Military Child, the Family Advocacy Program has organized the following events:

March 31 – Campaign Kick-Off at Rally Point from 5 to 8 p.m.
• Child Abuse informational display
• Junction City High School dance team will paint faces
• Kids card ID
• Staying Fit by Kim Miller
• Spider Man speaks about bullying and child abuse prevention

April 1 – Child Safety Day at the Post Exchange from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
• Fort Riley Fire Truck
• Sydney (auto drug driving simulation)
• Child Safety Car Seat checks
• DARE Officers
• KIDS CARE ID
• Wamego Museum Wizard of Oz Characters

Middle school teen center events set

March 20 – roller skating, 3 to 5:30 p.m.

March 21 – trip to Topeka mall, 2 to 7 p.m.

March 22 – video game tournament, 3 to 7 p.m.

March 23 – trip to Salina mall, 2 to 7 p.m.

March 24 – trip to indoor water park in Lawrence, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

March 25 – family potluck and Parent Advisory meeting 6 to 9 p.m.

For more information on these events call the Middle School Teen Center at 239-9222.

CYS to host open houses

In celebration of Month of the Military Child, Child and Youth Services will be hosting Open Houses for all programs on April 3rd.

• Child Development Center, Building 6950, 2-6 p.m.
• School Age Services, Building 5810, 4-8 p.m.
• Middle School Teen Center, Building 5800, 4-8 p.m.
• Outreach Services, Building 6620, 3-5 p.m.
• SKIES, Building 6620, 7-9 p.m.

Please check with the individual CYS programs for other program times and dates.

STATE FARM INSURANCE
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Community news briefly

Various Bible groups offered

Back from deployment, new to the area, perhaps desiring to get back into a Bible study again after a long absence or get into some regular fellowship with other couples?

Officer's Christian Fellowship has Bible studies Tuesday through Thursday evenings on and off post. There is also a female officers' study on Friday at noon, and a prayer time Tuesday morning.

Studies and contact numbers are:

- Tuesday evenings: Saine's 717-2760
- Tuesday mornings: Teetzel's 784-4480;
- Wednesday evenings: Curry's 532-9177, Arnett's 539-2760 or Velloney's 717-2820;
- Thursday evenings: Wesley's 717-2330;
- Friday noontime: Peer's 539-9062.

Go to www.OCFUSA.org for more information about Officer's Christian Fellowship.

Easter egg hunt, brunch planned

Military families are invited to an Easter brunch and egg hunt at Riley's Conference Center April 16.

Brunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$17.95 for adults age 17 and older and \$7.50 for children ages 3 to 16. Children under 3 eat free.

The traditional brunch includes honey glazed ham, carved steamship round of beef au jus, fried chicken, scrambled eggs, biscuits and gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans almondine, macaroni and cheese, dinner roll, salad bar and assorted desserts.

Three free egg hunts will be conducted on grounds adjacent to Riley's, with the first beginning at 2 p.m.

Hunts will be arranged according to age groups determined by those present. Easter treats for all age groups will be available.

For more information or to make reservations, call (785) 784-1000.

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Parents continued from page 13

Her son, Elias Lykes II, is a 2-year-old attending Module 3.

The program is based on a point system, and five points earns a 10 percent discount. To earn points, Lykes chose to attend Parent Advisory Council meetings and do activities with the caregivers in her son's room.

"I find the PAC meetings to be very beneficial. You can add your voice to the management of CYS," Lykes said, adding her involvement in her child's module has given her an opportunity for more input into her child's day.

"I'm definitely going to continue with the program," she said. "It keeps me involved, informed and gives me an opportunity to make suggestions. The caregivers are very receptive and they make me feel like my opinions matter."

The increased involvement from parents also has been noted by the caregivers, said Luz Perez, Module Six lead education technician. Among other activities, parents volunteered to accompany this preschool module on a visit to a local nursing home in Junction City.

"The parents were very helpful on the field trip," Perez said. "Not only did we have more people to

help with the activity, but the parents were able to spend more time with their own children and get a better understanding of what we do."

Hoffman encourages other parents to get involved, as well.

"We truly hope even more families participate so they, too, can see the benefits. Not only financially, because it earns a discount, but because they get an opportunity to be an active part of their child's day," she said, adding the CDC will be offering parents a chance to earn up to four points by attending classes on April 1 at the CDC as part of the "Month of the Military Child" celebration.

Want more information?

For more information on the CIS Parent Participation Program and the PAC meetings, call Outreach Services at 239-9850.

For more information on CDC activities, call 239-9935.

Women continued from page 13

Red Cross, an organization that has become renowned for its effectiveness in helping those who suffer or are in need. Recently, the Red Cross reached out to aid Afghan women repressed by Taliban regime.

Today, thousands of American women are furthering the cause of freedom through service in government, the military and other organizations that seek to defeat terrorism and bring justice to those responsible for the September 11 attacks.

The history of American women is an expansive story of outstanding individuals who sacrificed much and worked hard in pursuit of a better world. The spirit of loving determination that shaped these pursuits continues to serve as an example to those who seek to better our Nation. American women of strength, vision and character have long influenced

our country by contributing their time, efforts and wisdom in vastly diverse ways. Women have fundamentally shaped our civilization in the care and nurturing of families.

Today, women in contemporary America are furthering the Founders' vision by working to advance freedom, increase equality and administer justice in every corner of our land through their everyday work in schoolrooms, boardrooms, the armed forces, legislative and executive branches of government, courtrooms, homes and communities.

Please join the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley to celebrate Women's History month March 22. For more information about this event, call the Division Equal Opportunity Office at 239-3379 or 239-8433.

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Post/Heronemus

Desiree Brown, music teacher at Custer Hill Elementary School, leads the students in one class as they sing along as part of "The World's Largest Concert" March 9 on post. The televised concert was broadcast to schools across the nation so students could sing along with the Oak Ridge Boys and other school choral groups.

Kids sing along with 'world's largest concert'

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

About 300 students at Custer Hill Elementary School on post joined others around the nation March 9, singing in the "World's Largest Concert."

The annual event sponsored by the National Association for Music Education stages a televised concert broadcast to schools around the nation, so that students at each school can sing along.

This year's concert included the Oak Ridge Boys and the St. Louis Children's Choir, as well as others from around the nation shown intermittently during the broadcast.

Desiree Brown, Custer Hill Elementary School music teacher, arranged for each class to sing during selected numbers in the concert. When their turn came, the students stood and sang along with those in the televised concert.

For two numbers, "The Star

Spangled Banner" and "America," the whole student body stood and sang along.

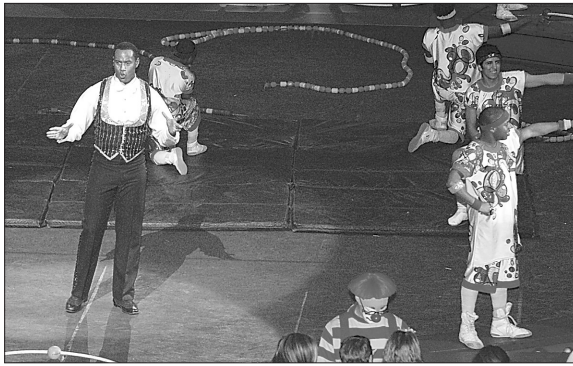
The program lasted about 30 minutes near the end of the school day. As each class filed out of the school gym on their way back to class, many were heard thanking Brown for the concert and letting her know, "that was fun!"

Mike Heronemus can be contacted at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil or 239-8854.

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Ringmaster Tyron McFarlan performs during a Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey group number during the circus' first night of its Atlanta engagement Feb. 10. McFarlan is a former South Carolina Army National Guard captain.

Circus

continued from page 13

tice. During that time he was also a South Carolina motorcycle license examiner. That, he said, is when the circus first crossed his mind.

"Oftentimes I'd be road-testing an individual ... and I would look just a couple of feet away from me and see the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey train," McFarlan said. "(I'd) always wondered what went on on the train. Now I know."

The ringmaster said he finds

his military background useful in connecting the circus and its support of the nation's men and women in uniform.

In December, Ringling joined the Defense Department's "America Supports You" program that recognizes citizens' efforts to support servicemembers.

A Ringling official said that while Ringling has supported the troops for years, this membership consolidates efforts into one program.

McFarlan said he thinks it's great that the circus has become more involved. It helps "our circus fans to realize how important it is to support our troops in every way possible," he said on the circus' opening night in Atlanta Feb. 10, when servicemembers received a 75 percent ticket discount.

"I think with the advent of a lot of things that are happening now with the military ... Soldiers need that support," McFarlan said.

Community news briefly

Class teaches love, logic parenting

"Becoming a Love and Logic Parent" is scheduled April 4 through 20 for parents wanting to learn alternative ways to parent. Classes will be taught from 6 to 8 p.m. April 4, 6, 11, 13, 18 and 20 in Building 7264, the Soldier and Family Support Center. Classes are free.

Sessions will present answers to such questions as, "How can I stop my children from bickering and fighting?" "How do I get my children to help with the chores without an argument?" "Is there a way to discipline my toddler in public without creating a scene?" and more.

The training program is designed to give parents some practical skills they can use

immediately.

To register, call 239-9435. Limited free childcare will be available for advance registration.

Library to feature dinosaur stories

Saturday story times are scheduled at the Post Library at 1:30 and 4 p.m.

"Dinosaurs Rule" is the story-time theme for March.

The March 25 story will be "Prehistoric Pinkerton" by Steven Kellogg. Pinkerton the Puppy has been chewing on everything in sight. Emily thinks he might be related to the bone-crunching dinosaurs. So Emily takes Pinkerton to the natural history museum to visit the dinosaur skeletons - disguised

as a stegosaurus.

The Post Library is in Building 5306 on Custer Hill. Operating hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

For more information, call 239-5305.

ESC presents Pamper Me Night

The Enlisted Spouses Club invites all military spouses to sample services from local salons, massage experts and home-based businesses at 6:30 p.m. March 30 at Rally Point. Cost is \$10 per person.

R.S.V.P. and pre-pay by March 23 by calling 784-2575 or e-mail escpresident@hotmail.com

HOUSE FILL AD

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4XA LAND, INC.
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HIGHWAY 24 AUTO
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3x6 Hwy24 Auto

GEARY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
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Marine wife, mom pens book

Book helps kids cope with military life

By Donna Miles

AFPS

WASHINGTON — Who could better share pearls of wisdom with military kids about how to cope during a parent's deployment or yet another move than a military wife and mom who's gone through the travails herself for more than 20 years?

Angela Sportelli-Rehak, wife of Marine Corps Lt. Col. Dennis Rehak, combined her personal experience with background as a professional counselor and professor to write two children's books about the challenges facing military families.

"When Duty Calls" and "Moving Again Mom" are part of a series called, "Uncle Sam's Kids" that follows a fictitious military family through the ups and downs of military life.

The books are written for children in kindergarten through fourth grade and focus on the stresses of deployments and the disruption of being uprooted during permanent-change-of-station moves, Rehak explained.

The stories are based largely on the Rehak family's personal experiences, as well as those of other military families, said Rehak, who teaches child psychology and education courses at Ocean County College in Toms River, N.J.

With 13 military moves under her belt, Rehak said she was often frustrated that no books on the market addressed the stresses her three children endured when they left their school, friends, sports teams and neighborhood behind during moves. "So I decided to write one myself," she said.

But as military deployments began stepping up after Sept. 11, 2001, Rehak temporarily put that project aside to write a book for the children of deploying troops. "My husband has been on many, many deployments, and I know there are a lot of stressors that come along with that," she said. "I thought a book about it might help a lot of people."

Beyond helping military fami-



Courtesy photo
Angela Sportelli-Rehak, a Marine Corps wife and mother, is working on her third book to help military children cope with the challenges of military life.

and balance at home. "Try to go on and do everything like you would if your husband or wife was home," Rehak said.

Keep involved with the community and seek out friends, family support groups and other connections to help stave off loneliness and isolation.

During military moves

Recognize that it's natural to feel conflicted over a move. Research shows it often takes three years to get rooted and feel a part of a community, and that's exactly when many military families make another move.

Strive to view the move as an adventure rather than a loss. Focus on it as a challenge and a new learning experience.

Visit landmarks and other sites along the way, if possible, to help make the move a happy family memory.

Re-establish family routines and get connected with the new community as quickly as possible.

Rehak's books have gotten solid reviews from military families, librarians and teachers who use them in their classrooms, she said. She received a personal letter of thanks from first lady Laura Bush, who recommended them during an interview on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Another book in the series, with the working title "Home Again," will hit the bookstands in April and focus on the challenges of reunions after military deployments, Rehak said. Through the characters in her book, Rehak said, she hopes to help families recognize reunions as transitional time during which family members re-establish their routines, responsibilities and authorities.

"Reunions are happy times, but also involve their own stresses," she said. "It can be a very hard transitional period for everyone."

Rehak said she might tackle yet another down the road, focusing on the cultural challenges military children face living in another country.

During deployments

Recognize behaviors that might indicate children's emotional difficulties. In younger children, this might be bedwetting or disruptive sleep cycles. Older children might withdraw or start getting lower grades in school. Maintain a sense of normalcy

HOUSE FILL AD



Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Friday, March 17, 2006

America's Warfighting Center

Page 17

Sports news in brief

Soccer Officials Needed

The Fort Riley Sports Office is in need of soccer officials for the 2006 adult active duty intramural soccer program. For more information contact Barry Sunstrom at 239-3945.

Co-ed Summer Softball League

The Fort Riley Sports Department is organizing a co-ed summer softball league running from May 9 until August 13.

The league is open to the active duty military, their spouses, department of the Army civilians and contractors working on Fort Riley. Fort Riley housing areas, civilian directorates and contracting companies are encouraged to form teams within their own organizations, however, eligible participants may combine in any fashion to make a team as long as the team composition meets the gender requirements.

A team shall consist of ten players (five male and five females) with the following position requirements: two males and two females in both the infield and outfield, and one male and one female as pitcher or catcher.

The entry fee for this league is \$120, payable upon registration. Teams must register by April 28 at the Fort Riley Sports Office, Building 202 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

For more information, call Barry Sunstrom at 239-3945.

Mini Splashin' Dash Triathlon!

Registrations are being accepted for the Fort Riley Mini Splashin' Dash Triathlon until 4 p.m. April 27. The triathlon will include a 300 meter swim at Eyster Pool, a 7 mile bike from Eyster Pool to Riley's Conference Center and a 2 mile run. An award presentation will follow at Riley's. The race is \$15 per person is open to everyone. Registration is limited to the first 150 individuals and the first 50 three-person teams. For more information call the Fort Riley Sports Office at 239-2172 or 239-2813.

Swim passes available

Season swim passes are available for purchase from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Manhattan Parks and Recreation Office, 1101 Fremont St. or at City Hall Customer Service, 1101 Poyntz Ave. Families receive a \$5 discount on passes purchased before April 28. For more information call 587-2757.

Golf Tournament scheduled

Custer Hill Golf Course will hold a membership drive golf tournament March 18 at 10 a.m. The cost for the event is \$15 plus green fee and cart. For more information call 784-6000.

Armor company beats Maint. Co. for 71-58 win

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Perfection came March 10 with 11 wins and no losses for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor.

The unbeatable company level basketball team donned the post championship crown that night, defeating 1st Maintenance Company 71-58 in front of a larger-than-normal crowd of spectators at King Field House.

At halftime, fans could have thought the Maintainers were on their way to an upset. Reining in their usual run-and-gun game, the Maintainers set up an outside and baseline shooting offense that kept lighting up the scoreboard.

The Maintainers made their way into the championship game with only one loss and nine wins to its credit, the last victory coming against another Armor powerhouse, Company A, 1st Bn., 34th Armor. That game went down to the final buzzer, ending 40-38 in favor of the Maintainers.

Both teams began the championship with ball control on their minds. The Maintainers, known for their sprinting drives and fast breaks, trotted toward their basket instead, setting up a perimeter offense that worked well throughout the first half.

The Armor played an even slower pace to begin the game, sizing up their opponents and looking for openings inside. Those didn't materialize very often, and they, too, resorted to outside

See Championship, Page 19

Unbeatable



Antonio Hamilton drives for a 1st Maint. Co. lay-up March 10 in the post company level basketball championship game at King Field House. Teammate Carmello Morales (32) gets in position for a rebound, trying to block out an HHC, 1st Bn., 34th Armor, opponent.
Post/Skidmore

Ski program recharges vets

Wounded vets benefit from time on slopes

By Donna Miles
AFFPS

VAIL, Colo. — Amputees being treated at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., wrapped up the third annual Vail Veterans Program March 5, having taken another step ahead in their rehabilitation and more convinced than ever that they have the support of the American people.

The 24 veterans, who lost limbs in Iraq and Afghanistan, spent three days here at this world-class ski resort, courtesy of Vail Mountain and the Vail community. While enjoying the red-carpet treatment with free lodging, meals, ski gear, lift tickets and lessons, they skied and snowboarded their way to new emotional and physical milestones.

"This is the most unique program because it provides one-on-

one instruction and care for our veterans at the most important point in their lives," said Army Capt. Dave Rozelle. Rozelle, who lost part of his foot in Iraq and then returned to duty there, now serves as administrator for Walter Reed's Amputee Care Center.

While participants in the Vail program challenge each other on the slopes, there's no last-day race and no sense of competition, Rozelle said. "Everyone here finds success in their own way," he said.

"This program is about getting on the slopes and doing things you never thought you would do again," said former Army 1st Lt. Melissa Stockwell, who was medically retired after losing her leg in Iraq.

Army Lt. Col. Barbara Springer, chief of Walter Reed's physical therapy service, said it's exciting to watch the transforma-

tion that takes place on the slopes. "I've seen a lot of people turn the corner," she said. "By the end of the first day, you could see the big smiles ... (and) the sense of accomplishment on their faces."

That accomplishment will have a long-term effect on the wounded servicemembers' recovery, she said. "Once they build up their confidence to the point where they can face a challenge and meet that challenge, then they feel like they can do anything after that," Springer said.

Nikola Nemcanin, an instructor at the Vail Adaptive Ski School who worked with the veterans, shared Springer's excitement in watching the veterans realize their capabilities. "We show them what they can do, not what they can't do," he said. "It's really great to see the smiles on their faces when they realize what they've

See Ski program, Page 18

Sports sign-up moves to Web

By Tim Hipps
Army News Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Soldier-athletes can now apply to participate in All-Army Sports via the Internet.

Any qualified participant with Internet access and an Army Knowledge Online account can apply for the program by visiting <https://armysports.cpsc.army.mil>. The Web site provides detailed information about the program, competition calendar, selection criteria, and points of contact in the Army Sports office.

The online application process is the brainchild of Army Sports and Fitness Director Karen White and Bob Roadarmel, a sports specialist at the

U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center.

"I was in Army Sports for about two weeks when I realized that we were making our computers work like a stubby pencil instead of using automation, and I said we've got to change this," Roadarmel recalled.

Four years later, Vermont Systems, which also developed RecTrac, has the automated system operating through AKO. "It's a quantum leap forward in our All-Army application process," Roadarmel said of the Jan. 19 launch of the online registration process. "We want the Soldier-athletes and comman-

See Registration, Page 18

Fort Riley history streams along Kaw River

By Alan Hynek
Fish and Wildlife Administrator



Alan Hynek

The history of Fort Riley is well documented with its history beginning at the headwaters of the Kaw River. Camp Center as it was named was the initial encampment at the confluence of the Republican and Smokey Hill Rivers. A surveying party selected the location as a military outpost used as protection for travelers along the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails. They believed the site to be near the center of the U.S., hence

On the Wildside: News About Nature

the name. Later the name of the encampment was changed to Fort Riley.

The Republican River begins its journey from just southeast of Denver Colorado. The north fork and south fork of the Republican come together in extreme north-east Colorado. Then the river takes a swing through Nebraska, where it picks up tributaries like the Frenchman and Redwillow. By the time the river makes it to the confluence with the Smokey Hill River, it has been impounded

twice and has covered three states.

Like the Republican, the Smokey Hill River begins its journey in Eastern Colorado, but takes a more direct route. Western Kansas tributaries like the Solomon and Saline Rivers join the Smokey Hill along the way. The mainstem and its tributaries are impounded several times in western and central Kansas before reaching the headwaters of the Kaw River.

Where the Smokey Hill and

Republican Rivers come together begins the journey of the largest river entirely in Kansas (the Missouri is bigger, but is only partially in Kansas). The stretch of the Kaw River on Fort Riley may be the prettiest and least altered over its entire length. There are very few places where you can find mature mixed hardwood timber like that near the Territorial Capital or the large floodplain forest to the west of Marshall Army Airfield. Although the meandering river looks peaceful and relaxing,

See Wildside, Page 19





Devon Parker and Eli Feliciano follow Instructor Jeff Foisy's lead during their first karate class March 11.

CYS offers karate classes

By Anna Morelock
Staff writer

Five kids, ages 5 to 10, took off their shoes and socks and assumed positions of attention to start their first Okinawan Shorin-Ryu Karate class March 11.

Throughout the class, Instructor Jeff Foisy taught the students a series of blocks, kicks and punches associated with the traditional style of karate.

The commands are in Japanese, Foisy told the parents and students at the beginning of class, but he promised not to overwhelm the kids.

"Ichi, ni, san," he counted in Japanese as the students moved from one position to the next, stopping occasionally so he could correct their stances or demonstrate the next move.

When not teaching karate, Foisy is a platoon leader with 1st

Battalion, 5th Field and has 14 years of karate experience. He has had the opportunity to visit family and train four times in the country of the style's origin, Okinawa, Japan.

Foisy teaches four Saturday classes at the Middle School Teen Center for kids ages 5 to 18. Registration for new classes begins April 14. For more information, call 239-4847.

To register:

Ages 5 to 10: 10 to 11 a.m. or 2 to 3 p.m. - \$45 per month

Ages 11 to 18: 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or 12:30 to 2 p.m. - \$55 per month

Phone: 239-4847

Special: Receive a \$5 discount when paid in person at Central Enrollment Registry.

SALINA POWERSPORT
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3x2.5 Salina Powersport

SATURN OF TOPEKA
3 x 7"
Black Only
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Ski program

continued from page 17

achieved."

"These people are just super in instilling confidence again," said Army Lt. Col. Dennis Walburn, who lost part of his leg to a roadside bomb in Mosul, Iraq, last May. Walburn, an avid skier before his injury, was making solid progress on the slopes using a single ski and outrigger ski poles.

Army Sgt. Joe Kapaczewski, a 3rd Ranger Battalion soldier who received extensive leg and arm injuries in northern Iraq, admitted he was a little nervous about his first experience on skis. "My doctors didn't really want me to do this," fearing an accident could set back his progress, he said. But Kapaczewski decided to give it a go anyway.

"I'm so glad I did. It's absolutely awesome," he said of his experience on a "bi-ski," specially adapted for disabled skiers. "This is the most fun I've ever had since I've been injured."

Rozelle, who has been involved with the Vail Veterans Program since it started three years ago, said veterans' experiences on the mountain translates directly to their progress when they return home. "When they go back to Walter Reed, they take their rehabilitation much more seriously," he said. "This gives them a new goal."

"Morale goes up" when troops return from an experience such as

the Vail program, agreed Harvey Naranjo, an occupational therapy assistant at the hospital who accompanied the wounded troops to the event. "They're recharged and re-energized to continue to get ready to fully live their lives."

By "living their lives," Naranjo said, he means living without feeling bound by a disability. "We don't want them just to walk," he said. "We want them to run and to ski and to do whatever it is they'd like to do."

Based on the veterans' progress on the slopes, Naranjo said he felt good about the care he and his coworkers at Walter Reed are providing. "Some of my patients are better than me," he said. "That lets me know that we are doing the right thing at the hospital. We are on the right track."

While enjoying their ski experience, participants in the Vail Veterans Program said the outpouring of support they received from the Vail community wowed them. "This is a package that's overwhelming," said Army 1st Lt. Frank Washburn, a New York National Guardsman who lost the front half of his foot to a roadside bomb in Iraq in May while serving with the 467th Engineer Battalion.

The hospitality started when Washburn checked into his luxury condominium — where a suitcase packed with a ski jacket, ski goggles, a souvenir coffee cup and



Army Sgt. Tim Gustafson, a Tennessee National Guardsman gets instruction on how to traverse the slopes on a "bi-ski" from Carl Desrosiers, of the Vail Adaptive Ski Program. AFPS/Miles

other gifts awaited him — and never let up through the five-day event. "They've really gone out of their way for us," Washburn said.

"The outpouring is just awesome," agreed Army Pfc. Justin Leon, a 101st Airborne Division soldier who lost his right arm in Kirkuk, Iraq, in December.

"Our community wanted to figure out a way to give back to you and your families and your friends," Cheryl Jensen, the event's organizer, told participants at their closing-night dinner, hosted by the Vail Fire Department March 4.

One of the firemen called the dinner payback for the veterans' service and sacrifices overseas.

"It all goes back to the (attack on the) World Trade Center. We lost 343 of our brothers and sisters in that tower, so it's a privilege for us to be serving you who are overseas kicking ass over there," he said.

Former Marine Sgt. Christopher Fesmire, who was medically retired from the 1st Marine Division after an anti-tank mine left him a double above-the-knee amputee in October 2004, said it's evident to him that Americans from all corners share the fireman's sentiment and support the troops. "It's from everybody," he said. "I've been finding that across the board people are supportive."

Registration

continued from page 17

ders to know about and use the system because it will serve them well."

Interested participants can go to the Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation Web site at www.armymwr.com, select Recreation, and click on the Sports and Fitness link to see what sports are available and to view the criteria for selection.

Soldiers, including members of the National Guard and Army Reserve, can compete in more than 20 sports on All-Army teams in the Armed Forces Championships and other individual amateur events.

A process that once took weeks to complete now can be accomplished in two or three days, Army Sports officials said, regardless of

where everyone involved is located.

For example, a Soldier deployed in Afghanistan can complete his or her section of the application on a laptop computer. The commander, who might be stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, can provide input from a desktop terminal. Once the installation sports director signs off, CFSC officials will instantaneously receive the application.

"It's especially advantageous to the Army National Guard and Reserves because they are not at installations, but they can log onto the Internet and apply," Army Sports program analyst Betty Raveill said. "Their applications will go directly from their commander to us because they do not

have installation sports offices."

The system will compile a complete collection of applicants' data and contact information. Likewise, everything applicants need to know about the All-Army Sports program is available on the Web site.

Soldier-athletes will receive an e-mail confirmation when their application has been received at CFSC. They will be able to check online to see if they've been chosen to attend a trial camp as soon as selections are made.

"We are hoping that this will increase the number of applications we get," Raveill said. "Right now, if Soldiers are over in the desert and they think they're going to be coming home in a couple of months, they can go

ahead and apply rather than waiting until they get back to apply and possibly miss the deadline."

Applicants still must fax or scan and e-mail additional qualifying information, such as competitive results. The fax number is (703) 681-7245.

Army Sports personnel will use the system for travel itinerary requests, team rosters, travel information to competition and training sites, and uniform lists. The system also will generate automatic annual reminders to help prevent Soldier-athletes from missing application deadlines. Installation sports directors must keep their data current to help the system operate smoothly.

LIVING WORD CHURCH - MANHATTAN
3 x 2.5"
Black Only
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MILITARY MEDIA
3 x 7"
Black Only
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Championship continued from page 17

shooting to score many of their points.

Fortunately for both teams, when the long shots failed, they had strong rebounders beneath the offensive baskets to score with put-backs.

With 10 minutes gone in the first half, the Armor began to edge ahead. Johnny Young expanded the Armor's 13-11 lead to 15-11 with a rebound and put-back. Teammate Marcus Wilson netted three points after that and Albert Kelly followed with another trey to put Armor up 21-11.

Harvey Shaw found the hoop for a Maintainers 3-pointer on the next possession and then hit another field goal to move his team within 5 points of the leader.

Wilson responded with another trey for the Armor, but Shaw and teammate Antonio Hamilton hit treys after that to put the Maintainers within 2 points of the leader, 24-22.

After Armor's Michael Arrington managed to sink 2 points through the outstretched arms and close bodies of the Maintainers' defenders under the basket, the Armor went scoreless through the final three minutes of play in the half.

The Maintainers, on the other hand, added to their tally with shots from Hamilton, Shaw and Cornelius McCall, ending the half

9 points ahead of the Armor, 35-26.

Shaw led first half scoring for the Maintainers with 13 points, 9 coming from treys. Hamilton followed with 12 points, including two treys. McCall and Daryl Starks added 4 points each.

Wilson led Armor scoring with 6 points from two treys. Arrington added 5 points, and Andrew Wong contributed 4.

Fans yelled with enthusiasm during the first half perimeter shooting show, but the beginning of the second half had many of them on their feet, too. In the first four minutes, the first five scores came from arching 3-pointers — three for the Armor and two for the Maintainers.

Arrington then grabbed a rebound and put in another 2 points for the Armor and Wong followed that for the sixth trey of the second half. Kelly added the seventh trey to put the Armor ahead 43-41.

Brandon McCoy saved the next Armor shot when he grabbed the rebound and put the ball through the hoop, extending the lead to 45-41.

After McCoy stole the ball and drove down court to lay up another 2 points for the Armor, the Maintainers called a time-out to regroup with 14:13 showing on

the clock and the score 47-41 in Armor's favor.

The time-out helped a little, as the Maintainers' offense began to trade baskets with the Armor squad. In spite of its improved offense and some harassing defense by Hamilton and Carmelo Morales, the Armor increased its lead to 60-49 with 4:30 left to play.

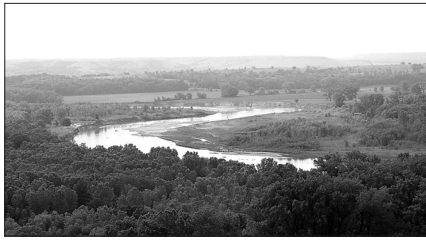
With time running out and exasperation taking its toll on the Maintainers, Armor was awarded four charity shots from two consecutive technical fouls on their opponents with 15 seconds left in the game. They hit all four, expanding their lead to 71-55.

Hamilton sank a final 3-pointer for the Maintainers in the last seconds, but the championship had already been decided.

Hamilton led second half scoring for the Maintainers with 9 points, including one trey. McCall added two treys and Bobby Allison contributed 4 points.

Wilson led Armor scoring in the half with 13 points, 9 coming from 3-pointers. Kelly added 9 points, including two treys; McCoy contributed 6; and Wong hit 5 points, including one trey.

Mike Heronemus can be contacted at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil or 239-8854.



A bird's eye view of the Kaw Valley River east of the Territorial Capitol shows the river winding into the distance.
Courtesy photo

Wildside continued from page 17

the physical scars from past floods are still apparent and forever etched in the minds of those who experienced the awesome power of the river firsthand.

The 1951 flood was by far the highest in recorded history. It produced an amazing 400,000 cubic feet per second of water volume. By comparison, the 1993 flood produced just under half that at 199,000 cfs. There are still many folks around here that remember the 1993 flood and its effect on Fort Riley and the surrounding communities. It is hard to imagine what twice the volume would have been like.

For the most part, the mightiest river in Kansas has been tamed. It is no longer allowed to meander

and change course, with the flow being regulated by several large reservoirs. Even with the many flood control structures, the usually tranquil Kaw and its tributaries can still unleash its power, reminding us that Mother Nature is still in charge.

Although we don't think much about the big river most of the time, it certainly has a daily affect on our lives. The Kaw River is a major source of drinking water for several cities and provides irrigation water for many farmers. It is also important to many species of wildlife, particularly to those that require specific habitat created by the river. One of those, the bald eagle, has come to symbolize the importance of the confluence on

Fort Riley. The wintering roost found here has become one of the largest in the continental U.S., where as many as 400 eagles have been documented at one time. It is also no less important to many species of migratory birds that use the river in the spring and fall and to the indigenous wildlife that make the Kaw River valley home.

For more information on the Kaw River, please visit the Conservation Office, Building 1020, call 239-6211 or visit the Fort Riley website at <http://www.riley.army.mil/Services/Fort/Environment/NatResources/Fort/Environment/NatResources/> to find additional information on this and other natural resources topics.

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Travel & Fun in Kansas

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America's Warfighting Center

Friday, March 17, 2006

Leisure time ideas

At the movies:

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$3.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children 11 and under. Children under the age of 5 are free except during children's matinees or expected sell-outs.

March 17 — Annapolis (PG-13) 108 Min.

March 18 — Nanny McPhee (PG) 98 Min.

March 19 — Annapolis (PG-13) 108 Min.

March 23 — Nanny McPhee (PG) 98 Min.

March 24 — When A Stranger Calls (PG-13) 83 Min.

March 25 — Final Destination 3 (R) 82 Min.

March 26 — When A Stranger Calls (PG-13) 83 Min.

For more information, call 784-2226 or 784-2640.

Get away and explore Kansas. Following are just a few examples of events and festivals taking place in Kansas. Check out details on these and other events on the Kansas Travel and Tourism Web site, www.travelKS.com.

Abilene:

What: Ida Stover Eisenhower Memorial Quilt Show. See a collection of quilts both old and new. The art of quilting is kept alive with over 70 quilts on display.

When: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday through March 26

Where: 412 S. Campbell, Dickinson County Heritage Center

Phone: (785) 263-2681

Web site: www.heritagecenterkd.net

Admission: Adults \$4; seniors \$3; children 3-16 \$2

Norton:

What: Tri State Toy and Card Show. Exhibit features antique toys, trading cards, and collectibles.

When: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 18

Where: National Guard Armory

Phone: (785) 877-2501

Web site: www.discovernorton.com

Admission: \$1

Independence:

What: Little House on the Prairie Opening. Experience the season opening of Laura Ingalls Wilder's Kansas cabin with music, food, and wagon rides.

When: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 18

Where: 2507 County Road 3009

Phone: (620) 289-4238 or (800)882-3606

Web site: www.littlehouse-ontheprairie.com

Admission: Free

El Dorado:

What: Butler County Student Art Exhibit. Amazing works of approximately 400 high school and college students.

When: 1 to 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday; and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday through March 29

Where: 110 N. Main, Courts Museum of Art

Phone: (316) 321-1212

Admission: Free

Wichita:

What: Wichita Grand Opera presents "I Pagliacci." The Clowns. Music by Ruggerio Leoncavallo (1858-1919). Libretto in Italian by the com-

poser. A verismo melodrama in two acts set in a southern Italian village called Montalto in 1870.

When: 7:30 p.m. March 18

Where: 225 W. Douglas, Century II

Phone: (316) 683-3444

Web site: www.wichita-grandopera.org

Admission: \$30-\$80

...

What: ArtPositions: Modern and Contemporary Art from the Collection. This revolving installation draws from the Ulrich Museum's extensive collection of paintings, sculptures, prints and drawings, photographs, and new media works to highlight various movements and styles of the past century, with an emphasis on current work by emerging and established artists of national and international reputation.

When: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday through Aug. 6

Where: 1845 Fairmount St., Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita State University

Phone: (316) 978-3664

Web site: <http://www.ulrich.wichita.edu>

Admission: Free

Yoder:

What: Parade of Quilts. Dozens of handstitched quilts of every pattern and color imaginable displayed at participating businesses throughout this horse-drawn community.

When: Through March 31

Where: Citywide

Phone: (620) 465-3613

Web site: www.yoderkansas.com

Admission: Free

Overland Park:

What: MOMIX. This playful company of dancer-illusionists focus on the amazing grace of the human body. Under the direction of legendary choreographer Moses Pendleton, one of the artistic directors of Aeros. Performing Lunar Sea, they conjure up a world of surrealist images using props, music, light and shadow, humor and their own arms and legs.

When: 8 p.m. March 18 and 2 p.m. March 19

Where: 12345 College Blvd., Carlsens Center of Johnson County Community College

Phone: (913) 469-4445

Web site: web.jccc.net

Admission: \$30-\$25

Manhattan:

What: 1% of Art - A Random Sample from the Permanent Collection. This interesting exhibition is comprised of 55 pieces from the 5,500 works of art in the Beach Museum of Art's permanent collection.

Objects were "selected" by the museum's collection management database, IO, by running a random query of 1% of the museum's holdings.

Visitors have an opportunity to see a selection of a wide variety of art that truly comprises the Beach Museum of Art collection. Prints by well known artists, such as John Stuart Curry, E. Hubert Deines, John F. Helm, Jr., and Herschel C. Logan, are represented, as well as works by lesser known and unknown artists.

When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday through April 9

Where: 701 Beach Lane, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art

Phone: (785) 532-7718

Web site: <http://www.k-state.edu/bma>

Admission: Free

Simply 'Eclectic'



A Kansas landscape is just one of the photos on display at the Junction City Arts Council by Sil Fida Gomez-Morris through April 15. Courtesy photo

Exhibit depicts military, landscapes

By Anna Morelock
Staff writer

A combination of photos from the Fort Riley and Junction City areas, Iraq and one from New York make up Sil Fida Gomez-Morris' "Eclectic" exhibit at the Junction City Arts Council.

The exhibit, which runs until April 15, is the first for Gomez-Morris, who's been taking photos for about 10 years. "I picked it up at a very young age," Gomez-Morris said.

Her father and uncle paint, her uncle is a photographer, and her family is full of storytellers, she said. "I grew up being a story teller and just kind of found that taking pictures was a really good way of telling a story."

Gomez-Morris spent four years in New York at New York University studying filmmaking. It was there, after graduation that her studies led her to join the Army upon graduation. Gomez-Morris said she remembers one of her most influential professors telling her that the best writers, directors and producers are people that tell their stories.

"You have to be able to tell what you know," Gomez-Morris said. "It became very evident to me that I had nothing to tell about."

So, Gomez-Morris joined the Army. "Like the whole commercial I wanted to be all I could be," she said. "I wanted to travel, I wanted to see the world and I wanted to meet people and at the time the army offered all that and it helped me pay my college loans at the same time."

When she got stationed in Kansas, Gomez-Morris said she missed living near the ocean. Everywhere she looked it was flat and there were no trees.

From September 2003 to September 2004, her view of things changed while she was deployed to Iraq with 1st Brigade.

"Being deployed you find out the worst



Three of Gomez-Morris' photos hang in the gallery of the Junction City Arts Council building. Post/Heronemus

If you go:

What: "Eclectic"
When: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays and noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays until April 15
Where: 107 W. 7th St., Junction City Arts Council
Phone: (785) 762-2581

side of people, she said. "You also see the beautiful things in people. You see how much people really care for each other, and you see people putting past their differences and kind of joining in. It built a very strong community and a very good sense of what I thought the military was."

When she got back to Kansas, Gomez-Morris said she had a new appreciation for the area. "It took being away from everything and being exposed to the fact that people love what they love just because it's there," she said.

Her exhibit expresses some of simple things that she learned to appreciate, she said. If her photos make some one smile,

she said her job will be accomplished. "My job is to capture those little things that we take for granted," she said. "To capture somebody's smile that we sometimes just never see."

Gomez-Morris is now married, working at Fort Riley and continuing her appreciation of the arts in her spare time. She is also working on her Master's degree in administration. With her combined business skills and film background, she said she hopes to open her own production company in the future.

Anna Morelock can be contacted at 239-3032 or anna.morelock@riley.army.mil.

Administrators display art from other side

By Michelle Hall
Kansas State University

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Administrators at Kansas State University are used to being recognized for what they do at the office. But for three of them, what they do in their spare time will now be on display — literally.

An exhibit featuring artwork by Jim Coffman, provost emeritus and professor of clinical sciences; Bob Krause, vice president for institutional advancement; and Tom Rawson, vice president for administration and finance; will be on display March 13-31 at K-State's Chang Gallery in Seaton Hall. "The Other Side" will feature photographs by Rawson, watercolors by Krause and oil paintings by Coffman.

Dennis Law, dean of the College of Architecture, Planning and Design, has been an admirer of

the three administrators' artwork, said Diane Potts, assistant to the dean. When Law and Potts found out Coffman, Krause and Rawson had always wanted to put a show together but needed a venue, they jumped into action to create the exhibit in the Seaton Hall gallery.

"This venue will allow the College of Architecture, Planning and Design to showcase the creative work of three highly supportive and talented administrators," Law said.

Coffman said he has always been interested in the visual arts. He took up oil painting in 1973 while serving on the veterinary medical faculty at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He took seven night lessons offered at a local Ben Franklin store.

Coffman's subject matter includes landscapes, work developed on a family and local geographic theme, and images derived from photographic stud-

ies. "I think everyone, even amateurs like me, has a story that they want their art to tell. Now and then it's fun to pluck up your courage and have other people look at it," he said.

Krause studied art at Western Illinois University, where he graduated with a dual major in art and art education with an emphasis in watercolor and silversmithing. He later continued his education in higher education administration at Michigan State University.

Krause has maintained his interest in art and said he often credits his formal education in the visual arts as the foundation for developing the administrative skills of "connecting the dots" to find creative solutions to complex challenges.

"In this sense, I never really left art. I just chose to paint on a different canvas," he said. In the upcoming exhibit, Krause will exhibit landscape watercolors.

Although his dad was an advanced photographer, Rawson said he never got into film photography.

His interest began when he was given a "point-and-shoot" digital camera as a gift about five years ago. Much of his work consists of landscape and wildlife photographs, many taken near his family's mountain home by Grand Lake, Colo.

"I enjoy digital photography because it combines my interest in desktop computing with photography," he said. "It looks like I might be improving a little," he said. "I look forward to having others take a look at my hobby and offer some suggestions or comments that would help me improve further."

The Chang Gallery is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

